

كندا من أجل

Demjanjuk appeal enters last stage

TEL AVIV — John Demjanjuk's lawyer told the Israeli supreme court on Monday that 80 pieces of evidence proved his client was not a sadistic gas chamber operator "Ivan the Terrible." Attorney Yoram Sheftel was beginning Demjanjuk's final appeal, asking the court to overturn his 1988 conviction and death sentence. Demjanjuk, 72, was extradited in 1986 from Cleveland in the United States where he settled after the war. The supreme court, due to hear final arguments into next week, is likely to take months to hand down a ruling. Sheftel said five Jewish survivors, witnesses mistakenly identified the accused, born Ivan Demjanjuk, as the "Ivan" of Treblinka death camp when new evidence showed the killer was a man named Ivan Marchenko. The lawyer said newly uncovered Nazi files and statements by 37 camp guards given up to 45 years ago showed "Ivan" was an older man with a facial scar who was the married father of three at a time when Demjanjuk was single. "Today there are 80 pieces of evidence and it's so simple for the defence to show unequivocally and quite completely that Ivan the Terrible is not Ivan Demjanjuk," Sheftel said.

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S. Arabia rejects human rights charges

RIYADH (AP) — Defence Minister Prince Sultan, the third ranking man in Saudi Arabia, denied charges of human rights violations in the kingdom, news reports said Monday. "Those making the charges against the kingdom are those who essentially do not believe in the human being," Prince Sultan was quoted as saying in Sunday at a military ceremony. "The killing, looting and usurpation going around the world, whether in civilised and advanced big nations or nations of the Third World, is totally opposed by our Islamic faith and with the realities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," he said. Prince Sultan said he referred to "the vicious propaganda campaigns that target the kingdom, especially regarding Iraqi refugees in Saudi Arabia. It is the result of continuous envy, and we shall stand up to it with good and positive work."

Coalition jet crashes in Iraq

ANKARA (AP) — A French Mirage F-1 warplane from a coalition force based in Turkey crashed in northern Iraq on Monday after the pilot ejected safely, a Kurdish official said. The jet crashed because of a technical malfunction and came down at 12:20 p.m. (0820 GMT) in an empty field in the 'Ain Kawa district of the Kurdish town of Erbil, said Safen Dizi, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) representative in Ankara. Mr. Dizi said the pilot was safe.

Sudan claims more rebel defections

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government on Monday claimed more mass defections to the army, about 700 southern rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The official news agency SUNA said a member of the ruling military junta, Major General Al Tigan Adam Al Tahir, visited the defectors Sunday at the Bong army camp in the southern part of the Blue Nile region. The area is close to Upper Nile, one of three southern regions where anti-government rebels have fought since 1983. The reported defections brought to 1,300 the number of rebels said to have changed sides in less than 10 days. Authorities in the southwestern Kordofan region said on May 24 that 600 rebel soldiers surrendered to the army there.

Somali gunmen loot food at airport

NAIROBI (R) — Gunmen at Somalia's Mogadishu airport looted food and drugs flown in over the weekend to save starving children, relief workers said on Monday. They said gunmen stole 800 kilos of medical supplies brought by a Red Cross plane and made off with six tonnes of United Nations high-protein food mix for malnourished children which landed on a second flight. The bandits highlighted anarchy in the capital, Mogadishu, where rival clans of the United Somali Congress have held sway since dictator Mohammed Siad Barre fled in January 1991. It was one of the most serious aid thefts since rival warlords agreed a shaky ceasefire under U.N. auspices in March to allow relief supplies into the country (see page 2).

Algerian forces kill 2 in clash

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces killed at least two armed Muslim fundamentalists Monday during a clash in Blida, 50 kilometres south of the capital, the official news agency APS said. A third member of a five-strong group, trapped by security forces in the town's working class district of Ben Bouaid, was wounded, APS said, adding that the toll was provisional. The para-military gendarmes on Sunday said security forces hunting armed fundamentalist groups for the past month planned to intensify their sweep of the Mitidja area, between Blida and Algiers, where most are believed to be hiding.

Arafat reportedly in stable condition after brain surgery

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was reported in satisfactory condition Tuesday after undergoing emergency surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain caused by bruises sustained in a plane crash over the Libyan desert in April.

Doctors said that the 90-minute operation, performed by a Jordanian medical team at the Al Hussein Medical City, was successful and that Mr. Arafat, 62, will be discharged on Wednesday. Dr. Youssef Qousous, head of the Al Hussein Medical City, announced Monday night.

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was scheduled to leave for Iraq when severe headaches prompted him to head doctor's advice to undergo surgery, sources said. "He is doing very well" after the surgery, Mr. Arafat's private physician and long time friend, Dr. Ashraf Kurdi, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press. His Majesty King Hussein, who held a round of formal talks with Mr. Arafat Sunday, accompanied the PLO chairman to the hospital and did not leave until Mr. Arafat regained consciousness, hospital sources said.

"Palestinian sources said that Mr. Arafat 'looked in a good

condition and he talked to Palestinian officials who were at the hospital after the operation. Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat's wife, Suha Tawil, was flying in late Monday. Specialists said that the clot was not life-threatening but its discovery in time for a surgery had saved Mr. Arafat from a possible paralysis.

It was the second time in two months that Mr. Arafat survived a crisis.

His 15-hour disappearance when his plane nose-dived in the Libyan desert in April sent shock waves among the Palestinian territories and in the diaspora and reports of his survival were greeted with relief and joy.

But the aircraft crash, and the suspenseful hours prior to the announcement Monday that the operation was successful, underlined the fears of many that Mr. Arafat's demise would leave a political vacuum in the Palestinian leadership and could lead to a fierce power-struggle within the ranks of the PLO.

Supporters and opponents alike fear that his absence could seriously undermine the Palestinian national movement and unity. For despite continuous and even increasing criticism of his individualistic leadership style, he is still the only leader that enjoys consensus among the various trends and an uncontested popular support.

Furthermore the PLO lacks a well-defined mechanism to elect a

successor and the leadership has failed to introduce one even after the panic that struck Palestinian leaders in Tunis and in the occupied territories when Mr. Arafat was lost in the Libyan desert.

In public some officials even dismissed the issue stressing that electing a successor was not a problem; yet most of them conceded in public and private that Mr. Arafat's absence would jeopardise the Palestinian struggle.

After the plane crash, Mr. Arafat, whose position was consolidated by the expressions of wide popular support during and after his disappearance, did not take enough rest and almost immediately resumed his duties and travels after returning to Tunis.

After the accident Mr. Arafat was reportedly doing fine until he started suffering from severe headaches. A workaholic who is content with a few hours of sleep, Mr. Arafat is used to function under duress and pain and does not stop unless he is practically forced to.

Therefore, it was not surprising that Mr. Arafat was planning to visit Baghdad and endure the 10-hour overland trip under the scorching sun, when specialists, including his own personal physician, had discovered the clot and suggested surgery.

Specialists said that Mr. Arafat suffered from bilateral subdural haematoma (blood under the membrane covering the brain). According to Dr. Qousous, the case generally occurs from

bruises such as the ones sustained by Mr. Arafat's plane accident.

Specialists said that haematoma usually occurs around two months after such accidents. Mr. Arafat's plane crashed on April 7 while he was travelling between Libya and Sudan. Two co-pilots and a Roman engineer were killed while two of Mr. Arafat's bodyguards were badly injured.

Mr. Arafat has survived several assassination attempts and wars, but he has always defiantly remained in the battlefronts, gaining an image of a tough, almost legendary survivor.

AP adds: Dr. Qousous said the operation was performed by the hospital's chief neurologists, Dr. Adel Shreydeh, Dr. Qousous and Dr. Kurdi attended.

Dr. Qousous said Mr. Arafat, complaining of recurrent headaches, underwent medical checkups on Sunday at the centre, one of the Middle East's most sophisticated institutions. Doctors detected a clot under the skull caused by bleeding, and told him that he would eventually have to undergo surgery.

"It was not a life threatening situation," Dr. Qousous said. He said that in the plane crash, Mr. Arafat suffered a severe head bump. That, he explained, caused internal haemorrhage and resulted in blood clotting.

"When we opened the skull today we found a collection of

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli warplanes come under Syrian fire again

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian troops fired anti-aircraft guns against Israeli warplanes overflying the eastern Bekaa Valley Monday in the third such incident in two weeks, police said.

They said the intruding jets made no bombing sorties and no hits were scored in the ground-to-air barrage that lasted five minutes.

The Syrians fired from the vicinity of the ancient city of Baalbek, but the type of guns they used was not immediately known, police said.

It was the third time that Syrian batteries have taken action against Israeli jets during the past two weeks of confrontations between the Israelis and Lebanese resistance, police said.

Syria has 40,000 troops based in Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate. In South Lebanon, Israeli warplanes buzzed the port city of Sidon and the hills to the east in mock air raids.

Israeli warplanes on Sunday blasted a training base of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah for the second time in as many weeks near the village of Janta, just west of the Syrian border.

Israeli helicopter gunships also rocketed the houses of two local Hizbollah commanders in South Lebanon minutes after the Janta air raid. Police reported three people were wounded.

That brought to 25 killed and 63 the overall toll confrontation between Israel and Hizbollah since May 19.

U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker said Washington was "watching closely with a real sense of worry the escalation of violence in South Lebanon."

He made the statement after an hour-long meeting in Beirut with Prime Minister Rashid Solh.

"The United States has been urging the governments of Lebanon, Syria and Israel to exercise every possible influence that could end the escalation," Mr. Crocker added.

Asked whether he pressed anew the U.S. call that Hizbollah be disarmed like all other militias that fought in Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, Mr. Crocker said:

"The U.S. position on this issue is clear. The Lebanese government is the only legitimate authority in this region and the Lebanese army is the only legitimate instrument there. There should be an option between the legitimate authority and the militias."

Mr. Solh's cabinet says that no Lebanese group involved in guerrilla warfare against an enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon would be disarmed.

"There is a stark difference between militia arms and the weapons of the resistance movement," Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz said.

"The resistance is the right of every nation so long as its territory, or part of it, is occupied. So the weapons used in that resistance cannot be classified as militia weapons," he said.

Iraq rejects new border with Kuwait

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq has told the United Nations that it refuses to recognise a new U.N.-surveyed border with Kuwait, diplomats said Monday.

The rejection, which was sent to U.N. Secretary-General Bontros Ghali in a 57-page letter in Arabic, violates a basic condition of the truce that ended the 1991 Gulf war.

The new boundary was established last month by U.N. surveyors and pushed the border deeper into Iraq, giving Kuwait 10 new oil wells and an abandoned Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr.

In the letter, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer said the redrawing of the border is "illegitimate," according to diplomats.

It repeated Baghdad's view that Kuwait was actually a part of Iraq that had been sliced off by the British colonial empire, one of the reasons Iraqi President Saddam Hussein used as a justification for the Gulf war.

"The decisions taken by the Iraq-Kuwait border demarcation commission are illegitimate and they constitute a dangerous precedent in the history of the international organisation," the letter said, according to the Iraqi News Agency.

The U.N. commission recommending in April that the border be moved northwards, giving Kuwait most of Iraq's main naval base at Umm Qasr and a larger

share in the Rumailah oilfield. The recommendation has yet to be ratified by the Security Council.

Iraq said the commission's ruling was "a mere political decision imposed by powers exerting authority in the Security Council, especially the United States and Britain."

It warned that Security Council ratification of the border would "create a permanent nucleus for tension" in the region.

Former U.S. Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering had previously said that if Baghdad did not accept the new border, economic sanctions will remain clamped on Iraq.

Mr. Pickering has since taken up a new post as ambassador to India. His replacement at the United Nations is Edward Perkins.

The truce that ended the Gulf war in April 1991 listed as its first demand that Iraq recognise the "inviolability of the international boundary" and the allocation of islands set out in a 1963 agreement between Iraq and Kuwait.

That resolution officially ended hostilities, although the U.S.-led allied coalition had ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait at the end of January 1991.

The U.N. border commission worked from the end of hostilities until this spring to demarcate the poorly marked frontier, most of which crosses desert with few landmarks.

Iranian officials warn of harsh crackdown after riots

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A senior Iranian official on Monday condemned widespread anti-government demonstrations sparked by economic unrest, and warned that the Islamic Republic will brook no opposition, Tehran Television reported.

Many Iranians, fed up with runaway inflation, shortages, and gross mismanagement, went on a rampage in several cities throughout the country over the past month.

Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, warned that the establishment will crack down on "any violation of the law resolutely and with power."

Protests in Shiraz, Arak and Mashhad, have alarmed officials. They are the first serious challenge to the country's Islamic government since it was established following upheaval of the

1979 revolution.

In a rare admission of disturbances, state-run Tehran Radio reported tens of thousands of shantytown residents in Mashhad went on a rampage of looting and arson Saturday, after government workers tried to raze squatter dwellings.

Iranian newspapers, operating under censorship, made oblique references last week to demonstrations in Arak, capital of central Markazi province, in which 2,000 to 3,000 people were reportedly arrested.

Similar unrest was also reported in Shiraz last month.

An Iranian opposition group, the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, said Monday that Mashhad was under martial law.

The group said in a statement that several people were shot dead in Saturday's clashes with

law enforcement officers, and that "some 1,000 were arrested."

The Mujahadeen said the main protest march took place along Mashhad's Imam Khomeini Street, leading to Martyrs' Square.

It said Iranian Revolutionary Guards had opened fire on the protesters.

Four police stations were dismantled by protesters during Saturday night and a number of weapons were seized, the Mujahadeen said.

Commercial life was at a standstill and government offices remained closed, residents said. Clouds of black smoke hung over the city.

Iran's interior minister, Abdollah Nouri, blamed "saboteurs" for the rampages, and said the protests in Mashhad were the result of "excessive kindness and mercy shown by our Islamic government — something which has emboldened some hoodlums and thugs."

He called Sunday for speedy punishment of those involved, and branded them "mofsed," or corrupt, a designation which carries the death sentence under Iranian law.

"Such moves which can disturb our beloved people's peace shall not be permitted and will be dealt with as rigorously as possible," he said.

Earlier this month, President Hashemi Rafsanjani's government ordered that salaries of civil servants be doubled, in an effort to stem growing unrest.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat photographed upon his arrival in Amman from Damascus Sunday (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Gazans call for sanctions on Israel

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian leaders appealed to the international community on Monday to impose sanctions on Israel for depriving thousands of Palestinians of their livelihood by sealing off the occupied Gaza Strip.

Israel barred Palestinians travelling out of the strip to their jobs in Israel eight days ago when a Gaza resident killed an Israeli girl in the Tel Aviv suburb of Bat Yam.

The Palestinian leader, who called a news conference in Gaza, said 60,000 workers were prevented from getting to work and their families were suffering.

"We demand ... sanctions on the occupation state and international protection for the occupied territories," said a statement by Gaza leaders including two delegates to Middle East peace talks.

They said the Bat Yam killing was a pretext for collective punishment.

"The Israeli government used it as a pretext to impose collective punishment on all the population of the Gaza Strip and isolated the strip completely, preventing 60,000 workers from going to work in Israel and depriving them and their children of their livelihood."

An Israeli army spokeswoman said the closure would be in effect "until further notice."

The Palestinian leaders said although the closure order did not preclude travel inside the area, a curfew on the town of Deir Al Balah in the middle of the strip in effect cut its northern half from the south, with no possibility of travel between them.

The army spokeswoman said: "It is not our policy to divide the area although because of the Deir Al Balah curfew the passage is in fact impossible."

Palestinians endorse 'covenant of honour'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian leaders in the Israeli-occupied territories have endorsed a "covenant of honour" to ensure the security of the Palestinian society.

A one-page statement entitled "A National Covenant of Honour to Protect the Human Rights of Palestinians" obtained by Reuters on Monday sought to end "negative practices" which stunted the image of the four-and-a-half-year-old uprising against Israel.

"We, the representatives of Palestinian public opinion and institutions in the occupied territories, in order to put an end to all that violates human rights, basic freedoms and the dignity of individuals, announce ...

"An absolute prohibition on any individual or group from giving themselves the right to take lives of others ... and to

regard any decision regarding this matter a political decision which must be dealt with by the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)," the document said.

Leaders of the uprising endorsed the covenant "to ensure the security of the Palestinian society."

The call came after many prominent Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip publicly spoke against the killings and other negative features of the revolt. Palestinian activists have killed more than 474 Arabs in the uprising, most as suspected informers.

Palestinian sources said representatives of various PLO factions and other local leaders signed the document. The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which vies with the PLO for

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Ashrawi stresses need for larger EC role in talks

LONDON (R) — Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi urged the European Community (EC) on Monday to play a more active role in Middle East peace efforts.

Dr. Ashrawi, on a week-long visit to Britain, said she hoped to persuade the British government, which takes over the six-month EC presidency in July, to press the Palestinian cause and urge the EC become more involved in the peace process.

"The EC potentially could play a very big role," Dr. Ashrawi said in an interview. "They are very powerful ... they should have a political role commensurate with that power."

The EC has been involved in promoting human rights and development in the region and could do more in these areas but the primary role should be a political one, said Dr. Ashrawi.

member of the Palestinian guidance committee at talks aimed at bringing peace to the Middle East.

Current EC President Portugal called last month for a greater role for the community in the talks, sponsored by the United States and Russia.

The talks between Israel and the Arabs began last October but have made little progress on substantive issues. The EC has been involved in multilateral meetings designed to complement the main negotiations.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said last month it would like the EC to co-sponsor the talks.

Dr. Ashrawi said she expected to meet British officials before she leaves on Wednesday and would seek government help on

(Continued on page 5)

Hekmatyar takes up seat in ruling council

KABUL (R) — Aides of fundamentalist guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said he had attended a meeting of a key ruling body for the first time on Sunday, the same day as Afghanistan's new president accused the rebel chief of trying to shoot down his plane.

Mr. Hekmatyar took up his seat at a meeting of the leadership council, the aides said on Monday, apparently ending his boycott of the faction-ridden guerrilla coalition which took power in Kabul a month ago.

Interim President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, told journalists on Sunday the attempt to blast his airliner out of the sky as it flew into Kabul from Pakistan on Friday was probably the work of Mr. Hekmatyar.

Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party, which fought pitched battles against forces loyal to Mr. Mojaddidi in late April and early May, called Mr. Mojaddidi's remarks a "baseless accusation."

The president did not attend the leadership council meeting,

held at a former royal summer palace on the outskirts of Kabul which was badly damaged in the fighting.

"The president was too busy to go," a government spokesman said.

Mr. Hekmatyar's aides said the meeting passed resolutions calling for non-Islamic parties to be banned and for a five-point peace plan brokered between Mr. Hekmatyar and rival guerrilla factions to be implemented.

It also called for a new body to be set up to govern national television and radio, which has become a battleground between rival factions.

Mr. Mojaddidi is seen as a moderate opposed to a strongly Islamic government and to the terms of peace pacts signed with Mr. Hekmatyar over the last two weeks.

The Jihad Council, a governing body headed by Mr. Mojaddidi, declared on Saturday that peace agreements signed among guerrilla groups did not necessarily have government approval.

Saudis warn oilmen again in Yemen border dispute

NICOSIA (AP) — Saudi Arabia has warned oil companies operating in a disputed border region of Yemen to stop drilling for the second time this year, saying they are "trespassing" on Saudi territory, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry first ordered oil companies to move out of the disputed area along the frontier in Yemen's Shabwa, Hadramut and Al Mahara provinces March 21.

The Saudi action in March triggered a new flare-up in a border dispute which has been running since the 1920s, when Yemen lost three provinces to Saudi Arabia.

The respected oil industry newsletter, published in Nicosia, said the latest Saudi letters were sent to the U.S. Hunt Oil Company, which has been operating in Yemen for 10 years, and the Phillips-International Petroleum Corporation group.

It said the letters warned the companies that their concession areas were in "disputed lands between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen republic."

The letters said Saudi Arabia "considered this an infringement and will take any necessary action

to protect the sanctity of its borders."

The letters did not elaborate. But there were reports that the Saudis carried out military maneuvers near the border region after the oil companies were warned to stop drilling in March.

MEES quoted Hunt as saying after it received the new letter sent in mid-May that it "recognizes that a number of political and economic issues exist" between Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

But the oil company said it feels that "issues related to border demarcations and other political matters should be addressed to the governments of the countries involved and not private sector oil companies."

The MEES report was published three days after the Saudi government said it was prepared to negotiate a settlement of the dispute and delineate the frontier. That was the first official acknowledgment by Riyadh that there is a dispute since it first sent letters to the oil companies more than two months ago.

These were sent to British Petroleum, Petro-Canada, Ireland's Tullow oil and Elf Petroleum, a Dutch subsidiary of France's Elf

Aquitaine.

BP stopped drilling in its Antufash concession area last month, declaring force majeure following the Saudi warning. Yemen's oil and Mineral Resources Ministry accused BP of violating its contract.

So far as is known, none of the other companies has formally halted operations, which at this stage are mainly exploratory. However, the Saudi threats will probably slow down prospecting since no oil company is likely to invest in fields in disputed areas. It is not clear why the Saudis began flexing their muscles on the border issue at this time.

But a 1932 treaty which supposed fixed the border between North Yemen — which merged with South Yemen in May 1990 — and Saudi Arabia is due for renewal in 1994.

The dispute sharpened considerably when the Yemenis, for long the poorest in the Arab World, discovered oil a decade ago.

Saudi unease heightened with the May 1990 merger, which makes Yemen with 12 million people the most populous state on the Arabian Peninsula.

Kurdish assembly empowers parties, not peoples

SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (R) — Northern Iraq's new parliament will be a political landmark for Kurds but looks like business as usual for the guerrilla-based parties that have been running the area for the past two years.

Members, who open their first session on Wednesday, owe their seats mainly to their party ties. Senior posts have been shared out in backroom deals.

The parties and their guerrilla armies have, up to now, collected and distributed public funds. Many Kurds will be watching to see how far they surrender such powers to new, more democratic institutions.

Those who thought last month's elections would mean "power to the people" may be in for a disappointment.

"I am afraid the people expect too much," says Jalal Talabani, leader of one of the two main parties. "All their hopes are with the new parliament."

The elections — regarded by Kurds as their first free vote — ended in a virtual dead heat between Mr. Talabani and Mr. Massoud Barzani, the two main guerrilla chiefs.

Neither gained the majority necessary to become paramount leader of the Kurds, so a runoff will be held in several months. Mr. Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) won 50 seats in the parliamentary balloting, as did the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) headed by Mr. Talabani.

Five additional seats were reserved for Assyrian Christians. The KDP and PUK both ran hand-picked lists of 100 candidates for parliament, from which party leaders have selected 50 each.

Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani emphasize their choices included non-party members, but every parliamentarian is expected to support the sponsoring party's line on important votes. While the speaker is supposed to be elected by parliament, Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani have already agreed the job will go to a KDP representative.

The head of the new executive council will be a PUK member. Cabinet slots on the council are being divided between the two major parties as well, with a few saved for minor party heads.

The first test of parliament's responsiveness to the people will be its budget. Before the elections, northern Iraq was run by the Kurdistan Front, an alliance of eight political parties backed by guerrilla armies.

The front controlled revenues — customs duties from the border, humanitarian aid, taxes — and shared them among the parties who undertook rebuilding, health and welfare projects. Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani say parliament should take complete control of Kurdistan's revenues and make its own budget.

Another major step would be consolidating party militias into a unified force.

Paying, feeding, training and equipping these several hundred thousand men is a huge burden but is accepted as necessary by people facing 100,000 Iraq government troops along the region's southern limit.

In exchange, many Kurds hope to see northern Iraq ruled by law rather than militia whim. "I want Peshmarga to stop taking cigarettes and food at checkpoints," said Erbil shopowner Mohammad Hassan Ali. "Under a democracy they must use their kalashnikovs for us, not against us."

S. Arabia levels personal attack on Sudan leader

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has launched a bitter personal attack against Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al-Bashir after he accused the kingdom of supporting southern Sudanese rebels.

Saudi spokesman said a statement by Lieutenant-General Bashir to Sudanese media last Wednesday that the kingdom had tried to send arms to the rebel Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) was "Loathsome... and unfounded in form and content."

"We demand that the ruler of Sudan prove the false allegations he is misleading his people with," the state-run Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the spokesman as saying on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia considers Gen. Bashir, who sided with Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, as "representing only himself," he said.

Gen. Bashir said last week that Saudi strips tried to unload arms for the rebels at a port of a "friendly African state" but were turned back.

"He did not identify the state involved, nor the type of weapons routed to the rebels."

"Perhaps he was paid for this shameful stance from the head of sedition (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein," added the Saudi

spokesman. The spokesman detailed previous Saudi grants and soft loans totalling \$2.7 billion to Sudan. He said around \$1.35 billion was paid in grants, but did not say when the last payment was made.

Saudi Arabia has suspended all assistance to Sudan, Jordan, Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"Is it sane for a country to extend all this brotherly Islamic help to a brotherly country... and then turn against it and fight it by sending weapons to Sudan's enemies who are trying to separate Sudan's south from the north?" he asked.

The SPLA, currently holding peace talks with the Khartoum government in the Nigerian capital Abuja, opposes what it sees as domination of the south by the north.

The spokesman made clear the attack was directed personally against Gen. Bashir and not against the Sudanese people, thousands of whom work in the kingdom.

"We are keen to disclose these facts to the Sudanese people and to the Sudanese residing amongst us and who enjoy our friendship and fraternity," he said.

"These facts are a slap on the face of the Sudanese ruler."

Horn of Africa states discuss relief to Somalia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Officials from five states in the drought-stricken Horn of Africa opened talks on Monday to deliver food aid to hundreds of thousands made destitute by civil war in Somalia.

Ambassadors and officials from Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti attended the talks together with representatives of some of the feuding factions in Somalia.

The Red Sea territory of Eritrea also sent a delegation to the talks, which are to discuss how to get food through to an estimated 4.5 million people facing starvation and hunger.

A regional summit in Addis Ababa in April called on Somalia's warring clans to allow food aid to reach the needy, but relief workers say people are still dying because relief supplies are only getting through sporadically.

Relief agencies are worried that lawlessness coupled with the worst drought for 100 years could kill tens of thousands in Somalia unless ways are found to deliver food.

At least 30,000 people are thought to have been killed in Mogadishu alone since Somalia plunged into anarchy 16 months ago after President Mohammad

Siad Barre was ousted and victorious rebel groups then turned on each other to control the country.

Somalia's self-styled president, Ali Mahdi Mohammad, was not represented at the discussions, which were announced by the Ethiopian media and held in virtual secrecy.

But rival warlord Mohammad Farah Aideded sent a delegation. He holds sway of much of southern Somalia but Mr. Ali Mahdi controls the northern sector of the devastated capital.

The United Nations, which has several agencies operating in Somalia, wants to establish "corridors of peace" through which relief organisations could channel urgently needed supplies.

Because of fighting and lawlessness, only one vessel has managed to dock in Mogadishu this year and unload food. The supplies had to be escorted under armed guard to parts of the capital where it was distributed.

Somalia's neighbours fear the lawlessness in Somalia might spill across their borders. Kenya is already host to more than one quarter of a million Somali refugees and says it needs food for them as well as for Kenyans hit by drought.

Canadian troops staying in Cyprus — McDougall

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Canadian peacekeeping troops are to remain in war-divided Cyprus for the time being, Canada's visiting Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall said in Nicosia on Monday.

"We are not pulling out in December. We will be going into the next year unless there is some progress in the meantime which will alter the mandate in some way," she told a news conference.

There had been fears that Canada, which has contributed troops to the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since 1964, would withdraw them because of its frustration at the lack of progress in efforts to reunite the island.

Canada has not been reimbursed for its Cyprus peace mission since 1980, and has outstanding claims worth \$20 million.

Ms. McDougall, who toured the Nicosia buffer zone and held talks with President George Vas-

silion during her one-day visit said she would discuss the future of her country's peacekeeping troops with the U.N. secretary-general and other troop-contributing countries.

"I am not going to make a precipitous decision," she said. She said Mr. Vassiliou had told her the peacekeeping operation ran parallel to efforts to find a settlement.

"I said to him a solution had to be found because we have been here for 28 years without the finding of a solution and that does not go on for ever," she said.

Diplomatic sources later said Ms. McDougall had told the Cyprus government Canadian peacekeepers would remain for the next two years.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops seized its northern third in the wake of a short-lived coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

PLO: Israeli actions provoked Eilat attack

AMMAN (Agencies) — Israeli actions in the occupied Gaza Strip and Lebanon provoked guerrilla attacks like that on the Israeli resort of Eilat on Saturday during which a security guard was killed, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said on Sunday.

"The atrocities of Israel in Gaza and Lebanon are responsible," Yasser Abed Rabbo, chief information officer of the PLO, told Reuters in the organisation's first reaction to the raid.

Israeli soldiers claimed guerrillas planning to attack the resort's crowded beaches shot the guard after swimming the Gulf of Aqaba from Jordan. Amman said there was no proof the guerrillas came from its territory.

The Israeli army said one man was dead and another wounded and captured.

Israel has barred Gaza Strip Palestinians from entering the Jewish state after the fatal stabbing of a Jewish girl near Tel Aviv last week.

Israeli planes have attacked villages in southern and eastern Lebanon.

The raids, which follow resistance attacks on Israeli troops and their Lebanese militia allies in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, have continued since mid-May.

Israel Radio said Monday the guerrilla captured after the Eilat incident told his interrogators that poor preparation ruined his squad's plans for a "massive attack."

Two of the four guerrillas drowned and the others reached shore Saturday, the Israeli army said.

Israel Radio quoted the survi-

vor, whom it identified as Muhammad Ben Mohammad Al Nabaa, as saying the operation was flawed by amateurish planning which resulted in two guerrillas drowning. Nabaa was hospitalized with a gunshot wound in his thigh.

The radio quoted Nabaa as claiming the squad set out from Aqaba. Jordan has denied the attack originated in Jordanian territory. Nabaa was quoted as saying the guerrillas planned to secret a "massive attack" on an Eilat beach.

Nabaa, 26, is from Hebron in the occupied West Bank and moved to Jordan 18 months ago, the radio said.

A month ago, he told members of an extreme Islamic group that he was willing to participate in an attack on Israel, it said.

The group, identified as the Mujahadeen, sent him to Aqaba where he and the other guerrillas trained in battle techniques and long-distance swimming, the radio claimed.

The radio quoted the following account from Nabaa:

Before dawn on Saturday, four guerrillas set out wearing diving gear and carrying food, clothing, food and weapons sealed plastic containers.

One guerrilla drowned while the commander refused to allow him to let go of his plastic container, which was taking in water and weighing him down. So after the commander's container also took in water, he quickly let it loose, but he also drowned.

The two surviving guerrillas landed on coral beach, kilometres south of Eilat, at 5 a.m. (0230 GMT).

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish planes strike Kurds in Iraq

SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (R) — Turkish planes struck in Iraq Kurds in northern Iraq on the weekend, killing one person and wounding three, Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) sources said on Monday. The attack was part of Ankara's battle against separatist guerrillas of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), fighting for an independent state in southeastern Turkey. "They are breaking their commitment not to attack civilian villages," said KDP spokesman Hoshyar Zebari. The KDP sources said the cross-border raids lasted from Friday morning to late afternoon on Sunday, and included strikes on the villages of Berken, Semca, Lowlan and Lelkan. Iraq Kurd leaders say bombing attacks are ineffective against PKK strongholds but kill or wound innocent Kurdish civilians. More than 3,800 people have been killed in fighting between Turkish forces and the PKK in the past eight years. "It is very clear the Turkish military is not interested in the political dialogue we are having with their civilian government," said the KDP spokesman.

Right-wing Lebanese deputy dies

BEIRUT (AP) — Right-wing Christian parliament member Edward Honein died in a Beirut hospital after a long illness, parliament announced Monday. He was 78. Mr. Honein, a lawyer by profession and a famed writer, had represented the Baabda district of Mount Lebanon since his debut in politics in 1957. He also held cabinet posts in five Lebanese governments. His death lowered the number of living deputies in the 108-seat parliament to 105 and put quorum for holding sessions at 53. Mr. Honein is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

U.S. discusses security with Bahrain

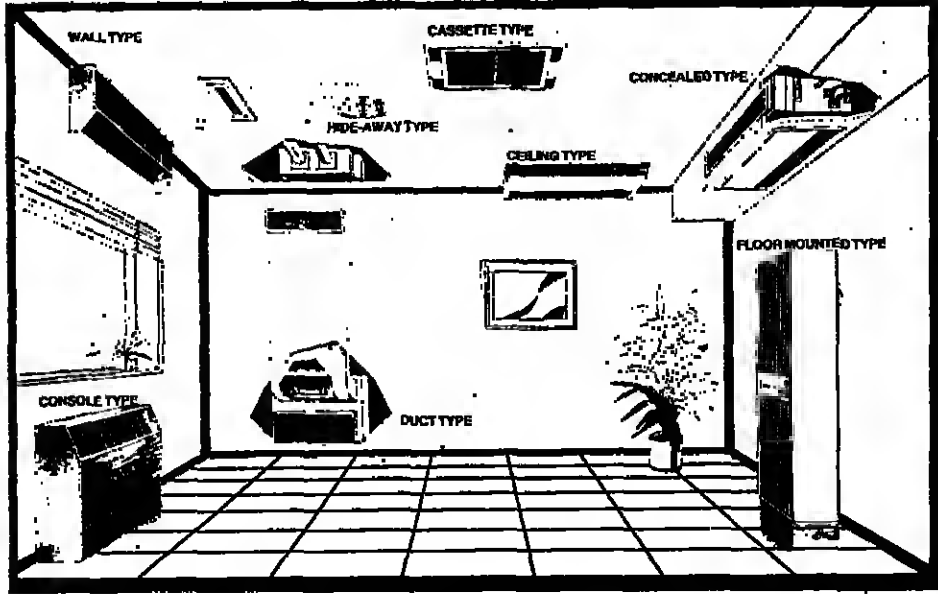
BAHRAIN (AP) — Carl Ford, American deputy assistant secretary of defence, held talks Sunday with the leadership of Bahrain, with whom the United States has close bilateral ties including a joint security pact. Mr. Ford was received by the Emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, as well as the crown prince and commander-in-chief of Bahrain defence force, Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa. The official Gulf News Agency said discussions dealt with bilateral relations as well as the current developments in the region and changes on the international arena. Mr. Ford was on his way to Oman to chair the American side to a round of the joint military commission between the United States and the sultanate.

Mexico reopens Tehran embassy

NICOSIA (AP) — Mexico reopened its embassy in Tehran on Sunday, resuming diplomatic activity suspended 13 years ago. Iran's official news agency said. The Mexican flag was hoisted over the embassy building in a ceremony attended by the visiting secretary for foreign affairs, Fernando Salas Morales, and in the absence of Tehran-based foreign diplomats, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said. The agency said Mexico had an embassy in Tehran between 1975 and 1979, when it was closed for "certain reasons." That was the year the Islamic revolution swept the Shah from power.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00... Les Tortues Ninja
18:30... Marc et Sophie
19:00... News in French
19:15... News in Hebrew
19:30... News in Arabic
20:00... Princesses
20:30... The Police Guard
21:10... N.C.s in English
22:30... Oscar films: "Sala"

PRAYER TIMES

03:53... Fajr
05:25... Sunrise (Dhuhr)
12:33... Dhuhr
16:14... Asr
19:41... Maghreb
21:14... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assuan International Church Tel. 683262
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain in the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and winds will be northerly fresh and seas very.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman... 22 / 32
Aqaba... 22 / 31
Deserts... 13 / 27
Jordan Valley... 18 / 30
Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

man 26, Aqaba 14. Humidity readings: Amman 14 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalid Ma'addi... 743000
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa... 732056
Dr. Bahjan Bader... 849362
Dr. Aded Daboudh... 612177
Firas pharmacy... 661912
Ferdous pharmacy... 778336
Al Asma pharmacy... 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy... 626762
Al Salan pharmacy... 636730
Yacoub pharmacy... 646445
Shmoussi pharmacy... 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Amin Abu Eida... (→)
Al Sharaf pharmacy... (778525)
ZARQA:
Dr. Salah Safarini... (→)

Khalid pharmacy... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre... 637111
Civil Defence Department... 773121
Highway Police... 843402
Traffic Police... 896390
Public Security Department... 602821
Hotel Complaints... 605800
Price Complaints... 661176
Water and Sewerage... 897467
Complaints... 787111
Telephone Information... 121
Overseas Calls... 010230
Central Amman Telephone... 623101
Repairs... 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs... 661101

Jordan Television... 773111

Radio Jordan... 774111
Water Authority... 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority... 815615
Electric Power... 636381
Company... 08-53200
RJ Flight Information... 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre... 81381/352
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn... 644281/6
Aidich Maternity, J. Amn... 64041/2
Jabal Amman Maternity... 642362
Palestine, Shmoussi... 636140
Malhas, J. Amman... 664174
Shmoussi Hospital... 669131
University Hospital... 843405
Al-Musader Hospital... 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali... 666127/37
Al-Badli, Abdali... 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen... 777101/3
Al-Badli, J. Amn... 775111/26
Army, Marka... 891611/75
Queen Alia Hospital... 602240/50
Amal Hospital... 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital... (09)863323
Zarqa National Hospital... (09)900560
Ibt Sina Hospital... (09)986732
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital... (09)990990
IBRD:
Princess Ruman Hospital... (02)775555
Greek Catholic Hospital... (02)772275
The Al-Nadwa Hospital... (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Naysa Hospital... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30... Dhahran (RJ)
08:35... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
08:45... Aqaba (RJ)
09:45... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:00... London (RJ)
17:45... Cairo (RJ)
18:15... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)

12:30... Cairo (MS)
20:50... Vienna (RJ)
14:10... Riyadh (SU)
20:35... Beirut (ME)
23:55... Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30... Aqaba (RJ)
09:30... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00... Vienna, (RJ)
12:45... Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:25... Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45... Cairo (RJ)
13:55... London (RJ)
19:15... Larnaca (RJ)
19:30... Jeddah (RJ)
21:45... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:00... Beirut, Rome (AZ)
14:15... Cairo (MS)
15:30... Riyadh (SU)
18:00... Aden (TV)
01:00... Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upplower prices in file per kg.
Apples (red)... 700/600
Bananas (Mukammal)... 300/450
Bananas (Mukammal)... 300/450
Pears... 200/250
Broad beans... 300/250
Cabbage... 70/30
Carrot... 170/120
Cauliflower... 220/180
Cucumbers (small)... 80/40
Cucumbers (large)... 150/100
Eggplant... 160/20
Gherkins (green)... 300/200
Lemon... 550/450
Marrows (large)... 170/120
Onion (dry)... 140/80
Onion (green)... 150/100
Oranges... 380/250
Peaches... 780/500
Pears... 200/150
Pepper (hot)... 220/180
Pepper (sweet)... 220/170
Potato... 240/180
Radish... 150/100
Sage... 200/180
Tomato... 270/180

Ministry to review domestic crime in wake of PSD's recent bust

AMMAN (J.T.) — Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoubi is holding a press conference at his office today (Tuesday) during which he is expected to tackle a number of domestic crime activities and security.

Officials at the Ministry of Interior who invited the press to the conference did not reveal anything about the matters to be discussed, but the press gathering comes close on the heels of a major security operation in Jordan in which a number of armed gunmen were arrested after fire exchange with the police.

The report, by the Public Security Department (PSD), said that the police apprehended a number of armed men who had been in the habit of conducting armed robbery, forgery, embezzlement and other illegal acts endangering people's lives and damaging public property. The

PSD said that the group had been active over the past few years.

According to the report, the arrest of the gang occurred late Sunday evening following a police chase which involved patrol cars and three police helicopters in the area of Tawashin Al Udwan on the Jerash-Zarqa road. Four of the gang members were all injured in the leg during the exchange of fire with the police and two members of the police force sustained minor injuries, said the report.

The PSD said that the police moved to apprehend the gang after receiving a tip about their whereabouts, and the arrest came following a long surveillance of the gang's movements and hard investigations into their operations. The PSD report said that the police were Tuesday still holding investigations and interrogating the gang's members.

PSD director, Fadel Ali, two days ago said that Jordan was still free of organised crime which was not expected to hit the country in the foreseeable future, but he admitted that once in a while some serious crimes do happen in the country like all other countries.

Maj. Gen. Ali also said that the rate of crimes in Jordan rose in the past five years compared with the earlier five years and attributed the rise in the number of crimes to the changes witnessed in the Jordanian society, such as increasing economic problems, the growing population, the forced migration of thousands of people from the Gulf and the rise in the unemployment rate in the country.

What is characteristic about the crimes in the Kingdom is the fact that they have their roots abroad and most of them are due to

personal quarrels, he noted.

Referring to the drugs problem, Maj. Gen. Ali said that Jordan is not a consumer of drugs but serves as a passage between producers in the North and those which consume the drugs in the South but, he noted, that the PSD has achieved major successes in dealing with drug trafficking operations. Seldom a week passes by without the police arresting a number of drug traffickers, Maj. Gen. Ali noted.

He said in 1991, the police seized 5,260 kgs of hashish, 19 kgs of heroin, two kgs of opium, 76,950 captagon pills and large amounts of cannabis used in the preparation of drugs.

But, according to Maj. Gen. Ali, 90 per cent of "rumours" about other crimes committed in the country are groundless and only exist "in the imagination of certain people."

Premier discusses public security activities, inspects road repair

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday made visits to the Public Security Department (PSD) and briefed on its development and current activities, and he also inspected work underway for the repair of the Wasfi Tal Martyr (Gardens) street.

At the PSD head office, Sharif Zeid met with its director, Maj. Gen. Fadel Ali, who reviewed with the prime minister the department's general activities with regard to keeping law and order and maintaining security.

Maj. Gen. Ali outlined his department's operations against criminals and the control of traffic along the city streets and highways. He voiced appreciation of and confidence in the PSD's efforts, noting that the PSD's achievements served as a source of pride for all Jordanians.

The prime minister thanked the PSD its recent apprehension of groups of criminals and its drive to rid the Jordanian society of evil elements and outlaws who, he said, were alien to the Jordanians and whose actions conflicted with Arab traditions and heritage.

At the Wasfi Tal Martyr's street, the prime minister was



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday visits with the director of the Public Security Department, Major General Fadel Ali (Petra photo).

met by municipality officials and engineers who briefed him on the ongoing repair work along the street which is 258 metres long and 26 metres wide. The engineers and the municipal officials gave details about the different stages of the repair work which started on April 9. They said that the work was expected to be completed in early August at the cost of JD 500,000.

The prime minister also listened to a complaint by a committee of store-keepers and merchants along the street who had been complaining about the long period of repair which they said would deprive them of business in the summer time.

The committee had earlier submitted a complaint to the mayor of Amman about the digging and the chronic traffic problems on the street.

FAO opens seminar on nurseries, food security

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Monday opened a week-long training seminar here on means of establishing nurseries to produce tree saplings which help protect the environment and ensure food security.

A total of 15 delegates taking part in the seminar are to review working and research papers dealing with the various uses of land, afforestation projects in the Zarqa River basin in Jordan, the ideal utilisation of soil, the forest's role in protecting the environment, improving existing forests and establishing wind breakers.

The seminar is organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture whose secretary-general, Ghaleb Abu Arrabi, was one of key speakers at the opening session warning of the dangers that threaten the earth as a result of the pressure of the grow-

ing population and the gap between food production and consumption.

"Forests have a major role to play in protecting the environment and they also help to ensure food security," said Mr. Abu Arrabi. "The elimination of forests has been proved to be one of the major causes of the pollution of the earth's atmosphere and it was also proved that the forests tend to reduce the amounts of residues and silt in the dams and help prevent soil erosion," said Mr. Arrabi.

The opening session was also addressed by FAO representative Salah Dibeib who said that maintaining forests and increasing the vegetation area are bound to improve food production and help stabilise the earth's climatic conditions.

The participants who represent various departments of agriculture in Jordan will make field trips to various agricultural projects.

Jordanian consulate exerts efforts to serve pilgrims

JEDDAH (Petra) — The Jordanian Consulate in Jeddah is exerting strenuous efforts to serve Jordanian pilgrims and the accompanying teams who started to arrive in Saudi Arabia for this year's pilgrimage season, Jordan's Consul General in Jeddah Lu'Al Al Khashman said.

Mr. Khashman said the consulate is conducting contacts and interviews with officials at the Saudi Ministry of Pilgrimage and 'Awqaf to arrange for accommodating Jordanian pilgrims in housing units in Mecca and Medina. The consulate is also informing the Jordanian Ministry of 'Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of all the regulations and conditions issued by Saudi Arabia, he said.

Mr. Khashman said the consulate is also coordinating with the Ministry of 'Awqaf and the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), to receive pilgrims travelling by plane and is working on issuing needed permits for the

travel of pilgrims between Mecca and Medina.

He said a team from the consulate is accompanying the Jordanian pilgrims to facilitate procedures facing them.

Meanwhile, Jordanian pilgrims started to arrive in Mecca from Medina after spending three days there.

The first batch of Jordanian pilgrims arrived in Mecca Monday on board of 120 large buses. Shortly after arrival, these pilgrims performed Al Umra (the lesser pilgrimage) rituals.

Officials accompanying the delegation said all the pilgrims are in good health despite the high temperatures which reached 46 degrees centigrade during the day.

Minister of 'Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, who heads the Jordanian pilgrimage delegations, will Tuesday pay inspection visits to the pilgrims' housing units to be reassured of their conditions.

Yemeni airline officials arrive on Alyemda flight

AMMAN — The under-secretary of Yemen's Ministry of Transport, Ahmad Abdul Qader, and the president of the Yemeni airline, Alyemda, arrived in Amman Monday on board the first Alyemda airliner to land in Amman directly from Aden, and the Yemeni visitors were accorded an official welcome.

Alyemda has thus made its virgin flight between the economic capital of Yemen, Aden, and Amman launching weekly flights

between the two cities, said Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials.

CAA Director Ahmad Jweiber and Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chief Executive officer Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz were among Jordanian officials to welcome the Yemeni team.

Alyemda had served as the national airline of South Yemen before the two Yemens were united two years ago.

'Colleges moving away from real educational objectives'

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of private community colleges in Jordan have directed their attention towards making quick profit and moved away from the real objectives of education for which they had been established, Minister of Higher Education Awad Khleifat said Monday.

The minister made the statement during an inspection tour of four community colleges in northern Jordan.

Dr. Khleifat chaired a meeting of the teaching staff in Al Huson

Community College for Engineering to discuss various issues of concern to students and teachers.

He said that more students should be directed towards vocational training; as of 1994, no community college graduate will be given any teaching position in accordance with regulations. Therefore, he said, community colleges ought to accept only those who attend classes and not those who only pay the fees and do not attend.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabel Luweidah.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafiq Nasari at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by 40 Jordanian artists entitled "An Artist and a Painting" at Baladina Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition of handicrafts, gifts, leather products, scents, food and sweets at the Amman Plaza Hotel.

Yemeni water, electricity official pays visit to RSS

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Deputy Minister of Electricity and Water in Yemen, Mohammed Abdul Alwan Monday visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and discussed scopes of Jordanian-Yemeni technical cooperation with RSS President Hani Al Mulqi in implementing projects in Yemen.

Mr. Alwan, who had earlier met with concerned officials at

the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, said that Yemen would benefit from Jordan's expertise in electricity generation and water resources development in its own projects in Yemen. He said that Yemen was hoping to benefit from Jordan's experiences in renewable energy resources in the framework of a joint agreement signed earlier by the two countries.

ESCWA holds meeting to prepare for Earth Summit

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Monday held a meeting to summarise and highlight a number of key issues and developments in Jordan in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Earth Summit to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 3 to June 14.

At the meeting entitled "Expose on Environment and Earth Summit" attended by Jordanian officials dealing with environmental issues, Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber, executive secretary of ESCWA, said that ESCWA seeks to implement an integrated plan through a set of programmes aimed at achieving sustainable development in the ESCWA member countries. This plan will be implemented in a manner that would suit the local environment in each country and safeguard its natural resources, Dr. Abdul Jaber said.

ESCWA bases its strategy

on a number of concepts which aim at dealing with all challenges facing socio-economic development in the ESCWA region, noted Dr. Abdul Jaber.

He said the ESCWA plan hinges on a strategy that takes into account the continued depletion of water resources, deterioration of condition in population, settlements, and the spread of pollution. He said that ESCWA finds it necessary to call for a firm commitment on the part of government and the public in each country to help carry out the plan, facilitate investments in programmes designed to protect the environment, develop management techniques, and introduce environmental control programmes within that integrated plan.

Also speaking at the meeting was chief of the division on environment at ESCWA, Dr. Mohammad Wahab, who emphasised the need for the support of "clean technology" programmes in dealing with industries and waste disposal.

"In industry, the modern approach of factory and indus-

try disposal mechanisms must be taken into consideration in which clean technology, or the environmentally sound management of wastes are undertaken," Dr. Wahab said, adding that environmental problems are closely integrated with development issues.

He said that major issues concerning environment to be discussed in the Earth Summit include depletion of the ozone layer, protection of the quality and supply of water, protection and management of land resources and combating deforestation.

Another speaker at the meeting was Dr. Ahmad Hamza, the regional advisor for ESCWA, who emphasised the need for a network of information on environment between member states, which he added is a project presently being undertaken by ESCWA. "This network serves environmental studies in ESCWA member states and will eventually become connected to national, regional and international information networks," Dr. Hamza said.

Dr. Abdel Razzak

Tubeishat, minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, who will be heading the delegation representing Jordan at the Earth Summit, said that Jordan is abiding by resolutions of the Committee of Arab Ministers' and various international and regional conferences on the environment held in China, India and Malaysia.

"Jordan just declared a national strategy for environment a few days ago and by doing so became the first Arab country to declare such a strategy," Dr. Tubeishat said, calling for all foundations and citizens to cooperate with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment in implementing this strategy.

The UNCED or Earth Summit will elaborate strategies and measures to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King sends cable to Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Scalfaro good health and the Italian people progress and prosperity.

Prince visits Youth Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Wednesday visited the Ministry of Youth and met with Minister Saleh Irbidat and his assistants. The Prince was briefed on amendments to the ministry's regulations on a fund for supporting the sports and youth movement in the country.

Foreign ministers' meeting postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting by the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine that was scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday has been postponed until June 6 and 7, according to Foreign Ministry officials Monday. The delay, according to these officials, was due to previously planned engagement by the four foreign ministers participating in the meeting, which is designed to review the outcome of the five sessions in the ongoing Middle East peace process.

Italians to grant West Bank centre \$2m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Italian government has decided to grant the Vocational Training Centre in Kalandia, in the occupied Arab West Bank, a sum of \$2 million in order to finance plans for modernisation and to promote its services to the Palestinian refugee trainees. The centre is run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and offers training to some 500 trainees in a variety of trades.

Jordan observers anniversaries

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is observing the Great Arab Revolt and the Jordanian Armed Forces Day anniversaries on June 10, according to an official announcement by the prime minister's office Monday. The announcement said that on Wednesday, June 10, all government departments and public institutions will be closed.

GUVS holds meeting on disease centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held Monday at the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) to discuss issues pertaining to the establishment of a chronic diseases centre. The meeting, which was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan and the wife of the prime minister, reviewed the objectives for establishing such a centre and the experiments of other countries in this field.

Princess opens school art exhibit

ZARQA (Petra) — On the occasion of Jordan's Independence Day, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday opened at Al Amal School (Queen Alia Society for the Speech and Hearing Impaired) in Zarqa the first art exhibition of the school. The exhibition included ceramics, artificial flowers, embroideries and paintings. On the occasion, a celebration was held at the school in the presence of Social Development Minister Amin Mashaqbeh,

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Social Development Mohammad Al Saqour and Zarqa Governor Mohammad Al Shobaki. The celebration included speeches and national songs and dances.

Farmers' association hold meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Farmers Association committees entrusted with drafting the association's internal system met Monday at Al Huson Youth City under the chairmanship of Lower House of Parliament member Mohammad Alawneh. The meeting discussed working papers presented by the committees on the internal system and the prospect of establishing branches for the association in the Kingdom's governorates. The working papers also discussed the goals of the federation and defined the farmers' rights and duties. All of the six papers agreed that agriculture should be considered a cornerstone in the national economy and called for exploiting all agricultural lands in Jordan, whether they were owned by the state or by individuals.

Communications seminar in progress

AMMAN — A three-day seminar on communications, attended by A'man Trading and Marketing (AT&M) Company and the company they represent, the Canadian Northern Telecom, is being held at the Marriott Hotel. The seminar, which started May 31, tackles developments in communications, new technologies, hospitality features for hotels secured by communications companies, data-transmission, networking and voice-mail, among the main subjects. According to the local company's officials, Jordan was chosen as the venue for the seminar in view of its accomplishments in developing and upgrading the communications system and for its potential for future progress in the domain.

Tax department begins fining

AMMAN (Petra) — The income tax department Monday started imposing fines on those so far failing to submit statements about their income during 1991. A department official said that the financial fine will be at the rate of two per cent for every month in delay.

RSS observes environment

AMMAN (Petra) — In observance of the International Environment Day, which will fall on June 15, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) decided to make Wednesday, June 3, an open day for citizens wishing to visit the laboratories of the Environmental Research Centre at the society. The centre will distribute pamphlets and posters to citizens to familiarise them with the importance of preserving the environment.

UNICEF opens symposium to discuss book

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Monday opened in Amman a symposium which will discuss a book entitled "Facts of Life," which is published by the fund in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa information director, Tomas Hazo, said the five-day symposium will discuss the book, which consists of ten chapters. Mr. Hazo said the book is considered a practical contribution to developing primary health care principles and said that it includes the latest conclusions on mother and child health.

Jordan's presence in Seville Expo seen as 'important'

By Nur Sati
in Seville

SEVILLE — Jordan's week-long cultural activities at the Seville Universal Exposition came to a conclusion Saturday evening but the head of the Jordanian commission at the exposition, Dr. Mazen Al Amouri said that there will be a repeat of Jordanian cultural activities late in September.

The Jordanian pavilion, which was visited by thousands of people, consisted of Jordanian folkloric performances, musical concerts and a vast display of archaeological displays of artefacts found in the Kingdom over the ages.

Dr. Amouri said September, Jordan will display further aspects of its culture and will hold seminars and organise folkloric performances.

Meanwhile, Spain's Deputy Commissioner General at the Seville Universal Expo Juan Correas said that Jordan's presence was very important. Spain attached great importance to Jordan's participation, which is rich with cultural treasures, Mr. Correas noted in an interview with the Jordan Times.

Looking at the overall pavilions at the expo, Mr. Correas pointed out that it is not easy to find a uniform pattern. "All of them are jewels in themselves," he went on to describe the enthusiasm that was

injected by most countries not only in terms of what the countries could offer inside their own pavilions, but also the energy contributed towards the expo's organisation. "In the end, what a country offers to its visitors is experience and not only content," he said.

Despite the rainy and cold weather in Seville last week, the expo site remained crowded. The Seville Exposition has so far been very positive, generating some seven million visits—50 per cent higher than what was initially estimated.

The majority of the visitors at the expo are Spanish but by mid-June, expo organisers are expecting a large increase of foreign presence. "Now, sixty per cent of the population at the expo site are Spanish and the rest are from abroad," Mr. Correas said. "We expect a large increase during the holiday season. What is happening now is a building up of awareness of what the expo is all about," he added.

The idea of Spain hosting an expo was initiated by His Majesty King Juan Carlos who expressed such a wish in Santo Domingo in 1976. According to Mr. Correas, it was decided that the expo should happen in a place underdeveloped. "Once we chose Andalusia as the area, Seville was chosen as the site for various historical reasons. "The project, whose

infrastructure commenced in 1987 received the support of almost every political group in Spain.

In 1988, the 77th country (Norway) to be incorporated into the expo broke the record for international participation for all universal exposition; 110 nations are now represented in Seville.

For Spain, the universal exposition means the opportunity to appear before the international community as a modern, efficient country capable of organising a project of the size of the expo. In the words of Mr. Correas: "One important element is one image, making the world aware of Spain, putting it on the map and showing people that it is a reliable partner."

International recognition is another element, he said. "The fact that Spain is capable of joining the international community... it is a very telling story."

In only five years, the entire communications network had been modernised to connect Andalusia to Spain and the rest of Europe. A telecommunications network had been built which makes Seville one of the most advanced cities of the continent. Before 1987, only the Carthusian monastery of Santa Maria de las Cuevas existed on the lands occupied now by the site of the universal exposition. The 500 hectares of

the island was only a land of orchards and agricultural plots, according to a press dossier.

"The fundamental development that has occurred in this area has made Seville closer to the rest of Spain and the international standards needed in terms of communications and infrastructure has already been accomplished. What we need now is to keep on with this enthusiasm," Mr. Correas said.

The second interest of the expo organisers is the continuation of the expo site after October when most of the countries dismantle their pavilions. "We worked on a master plan to make the expo site workable for the future," Mr. Correas said. Because of the modern infrastructure and sophisticated systems, a project known now as Cartuja '93 was made feasible. "Once the expo is over, high tech companies and other bodies will be installed here, consolidating the momentum and development generated by the celebrations of Expo '92," he said.

Some companies have already expressed their desire to take up a space at the expo site in 1993. "We have enough room to transform the expo site into an entertainment area, museums and for companies. We are very flexible. "The 300,000 square metre is controlled by us," Mr. Correas added.

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Amman, Gardens and all

IT SEEMS the mayor of Amman and his team of bureaucrats have a weird sense of city planning. For instance, they side with the minority, car owners and drivers, against the majority, the pedestrians, when planning roads and flow of traffic. To make it easy for cars to go through downtown Amman, polluting the air and endangering the health and lives of shopowners and shoppers, they construct barriers along the pavements of the streets, thus making it most difficult for people to cross from one side street to the other. While many well-planned and beautiful cities of the world and enlightened mayors turn their downtowns into exclusively-for-pedestrians zones, our mayor and his city council choose to turn the capital's centre into a track for speeding cars and crazy car drivers. Can't the Municipality of Greater Amman, for example, run a mini-bus service between exit points in the city centre and spare the rest of the space for shoppers? Almost every one hundred metres or so, you can find staircases that lead up to the "seven hills," and carowners can certainly park their cars on the hills and use some exercise by walking up and down the stairs. Isn't there such imagination on the part of our city planners, or managers where they can be found? Surely the whole concept of car-road-pedestrian in Amman especially in downtown should be revised and looked at with a new vision.

That brings us to the so-called Gardens (Wasfi Tel) Street, which once, before development, had a famous garden. In every city less greater than Amman the normal practice is for the municipality to pronounce a certain zone a development area providing it with all the infrastructure before having businesses and offices move in. In Amman the case has been the opposite. Buildings were erected and shops sprouted everywhere before the municipality could provide the roads, much less the pavements and other necessary services. And when the municipality made its intervention at last it moved at a snail's pace, leaving concerned people with their lots of problems and troubles. The prime minister, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, did the right thing yesterday to go to Gardens Street with the concerned authorities to see for himself what was happening and could be done to save the situation. We trust that his inspection of the sight and his efforts to solve its problems will not be ignored by those who are responsible for creating them in the first place. His interest in the "Gardens" story shows just how important it indeed is.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily said that King Hussein's meetings with Palestine President Yasser Arafat to review the peace process and discuss Palestinian-Jordanian coordination were timely in light of the fast moving developments in the region. It is natural, said the paper, to see such brotherly meetings take place at this juncture in a bid to reaffirm the ongoing coordination between the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships and to chart further plans for joint action. It is known that the peace process is facing obstacles and difficulties at the bilateral and multilateral levels and it requires consultation to help give momentum to the process of achieving what is right and helpful for the Arabs in their struggle to regain their rights, said the daily. The Jordanian-Palestinian meetings assume importance at this time, on the eve of a meeting in Amman by foreign ministers of Arab countries involved in the peace process, so that the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships can reach a common ground vis-a-vis the intransigent Israeli position and to find a way to deal with other difficulties that have so far rendered the peace process fruitless, the paper added. It is to be noted also that the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships are concerning their stands at a time when Israel is busy escalating its aggression on South Lebanon and against the Palestinians inside the occupied Arab territories, the paper said. These Israeli practices, the paper pointed out, are designed to sabotage the peace process at a time when the co-sponsors of the negotiations are refraining from any interference and are not doing anything to stop such inhuman behaviours. The Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, together with the upcoming meeting in Amman by the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, said the paper, are bound to give further momentum to the current drive to bolster inter-Arab solidarity in the face of the common enemy and Israel's practices to abort the peace process.

A GUEST columnist in Al Rai Arabic daily tackled the dangers inherent in swimming in the Waleh and Hidan water pools in the Dhiban district, south of Amman, noting that more and more lives are lost every year due to swimming in those dangerous areas. Sheikh Khaled Wureikat recalled with deep pain the sight of a mother of two sons who went swimming in the Waleh pool recently and drowned, noting that it is dangerous for anyone to swim in that pool. Liking the dangerous pools lying north and south of the Dhiban district to the Bermuda Triangle of death, the writer said that Jordanians still remember with deep pain the loss of 16 teachers and students who drowned in these pools some time ago causing grief to many families in Jordan. Despite the dangers and the warning signs asking people to refrain from taking a swim in the dangerous waters of Waleh and Hidan pools, more people are reported ignoring the warning signs and taking a fatal jump to the pools, said the writer. What is needed, he said, is not a mere sign warning people against swimming in the pools, but rather more effective measures to put an end to the drain of precious life. He said that the concerned authorities could either fill the pools with earth and rocks to eliminate their presence completely or take steps to prevent people from going near those pools by force.

The View from Fourth Circle

Who cares for those who do not vote?

By Rami G. Khouri

One of the most impressive gatherings that I have attended in Jordan in recent years was the first national conference for children that took place in Amman last month — but we do not yet know if the meeting was an isolated event or part of a longer term process. I would like to dwell on the potential importance of that gathering because it strikes me as a good litmus test of how serious we are about addressing our priority problems and challenges.

Never before in Jordan had so many people from so many different sectors and organisations — public, private, and non-governmental — come together to share views on the theme of children's needs. The meeting was very impressive, both for the broad scope of its participants, and for the expertise and honesty that characterised the exchange of views. It enjoyed an extra political push from the fact of being opened by His Majesty King Hussein, and of having Her Majesty Queen Noor attend some of the subsequent sessions, including the closing session that agreed on the recommendations.

It was all very impressive. But will it mean anything a few months or a few years from now? One could accept it if the recommendations of a conference on solar energy technology or warehousing book-keeping procedures were not fully implemented or monitored. But in this case, the subject of children seems to me too important to allow to slip into the usual post-conference bureaucratic haze that afflicts most meetings of this sort. Children under the age of 18 make up over half the population of Jordan. Their health, education, and psychological status during the remainder of this decade will largely determine the course of the country for the next several generations.

It is precisely because of the long-term impact of children's status on overall national quality of life that we need to look more closely at the goals we have set for our children and ourselves. A child that suffers permanent physical, mental, or psychological problems due to a brief bout of malnutrition as a baby — in those critical early years when brain cells and emotional bonds were forming — could be a burden on society for the rest of his or her life. It is considerably cheaper to provide pregnant women with medical checkups and information during their pregnancy than to risk the danger and long-term costs of dealing with human disabilities that could have been prevented with proper ante-natal care.

I could give many other examples. The list is very long. It simply confirms the compelling logic of focusing national health and education policies on providing families with knowledge and preventive health through an efficient primary health care system — rather than on spending tens of millions of dinars on expensive hospital care for ailments that are easier and cheaper to prevent in pregnancy, infancy, and childhood.

These issues touch on criteria of quality and costs: how do we try to assure the best possible health and quality of life for Jordanians? How do we do so at the most efficient cost? These

questions are particularly relevant today as we grapple with major economic challenges and pressures on our infrastructure due to the return of some 400,000 expatriates and the continued high natural population growth rate.

The last four years have been difficult ones, with much economic, political, and social stress. The consequences are there for all to see — high unemployment, rising poverty, increased crime, deterioration in the quality of health and education, and lack of sufficient means to address growing social needs, to name only the most self-evident. At this pivotal moment of added stress, the country as a whole faces the challenge of how to respond with a strategy that provides special protection to its most vulnerable — especially its children.

This is why the meeting on children was so impressive, and why it is so important to keep raising and following up the issues that were discussed there. I would suggest we have an opportunity to strike a triple blow for goodness: to maintain a vigilant watch over children's needs, to promote more meaningful democratic institutions, and to galvanize a national effort for sustained human development.

The national conference for children resulted in a general framework for a national strategy on childhood, which outlined a series of goals for the year 2000. Most of these parallel the global goals for children that emerged from the September 1990 World Summit for Children at U.N. headquarters, which was attended by Queen Noor. Jordan signed the world declaration and plan of action for children that emerged from the summit, and has formally agreed to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in November 1989.

In theory, Jordan is formally and legally committed to the child survival and protection dictates of the child rights convention, which have been reinforced and emphasised by last month's national conference for children. But who cares? Whose job is it to hold people accountable for implementing the goals of the Jordanian national conference for children, or the convention on the rights of the child? This is not clear, and this is where serious action is required. I would suggest the following measures:

1. The higher council on childhood should be reactivated — as the conference suggested — but only in a manner that provides it with political clout. It cannot be another of many failed higher councils that have been irrelevant groupings of ministers and lower officials who are often uninformed, incompetent, or uninterested — or, sometimes, all three. The higher council and others like it have failed before and will fail again, unless they can exercise real political and legal power. I would suggest that the council be empowered by law to hold an annual public review of the goals outlined in the conference for children, with televised public hearings. The council should be mandated by law to present an annual report to Parliament and to the Royal Court, monitoring achievements and failures in our goals for children.

The idea would be to reward and recognise those who achieve results, and to pressure and prod those who do not.

2. Children's issues must be integrated into political and parliamentary life, so that national political and economic priorities can be established in a meaningful manner that responds to the basic human needs and rights of the majority of the population. Parliament's job is partly to oversee the work of the executive branch, and there are few other tasks facing the government and the parliament more important than the welfare of our children. I do not have a blueprint for how this can be done. Perhaps several MPs should be on the higher council on childhood. Perhaps the council and Parliament should hold annual review sessions. There must be many feasible ways of making children's needs a more high profile political issue. Whose job is it to see that this is done? Who is responsible for the interests of the half of the population that does not vote and that cannot exert political pressure because it is under the age of 18?

3. The media needs to play a more diligent and intelligent role in stimulating interest by the public at large. Jordan, like most Arab countries, suffers from the disease of expecting the government to do everything for the people. The government, however, is clearly unable to do so. It does not have enough money, political will, or managerial competence to do everything demanded of it. The quality of public services is declining, not improving. The real source of progress on children's needs is the activism of the people themselves. Yet, the four most effective potential channels for promoting mass popular awareness and activism for children's needs (the education system, the media, the armed forces, and religion) remain largely dormant or uninspired on this issue. Some superficial actions are undertaken, but there is no systemic, coherent, and permanent system that generates grassroots knowledge that in turn translates into pressure on political decision-makers.

Jordan has made impressive gains in the field of children's basic needs in recent decades, and we have much to be proud of. But never have we faced so many simultaneous and substantial pressures that could unravel many of those gains. The combination of economic and demographic pressures we face could be devastating if it is not addressed in a serious manner. The long-term quality of life of hundreds of thousands of people could be relegated to a cycle of permanent regressions if the right decisions are not made today and in the immediate future.

Most of those decisions are common sense. They relate to obvious priorities about primary health care, maternal care, education, sanitation, water, and providing families with the knowledge they can use to care for their own health. Such decisions need a strong dose of political will, and an effective long-term follow-up and monitoring mechanism to make sure that they do not die an agonising bureaucratic death.

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Many children in Iraq stand no chance of ever growing up

By Manfred Ferrari

"They have shattered our bones but left our skin intact." These were the words used by Archbishop Emmanuel-Karim Dely to describe the situation shortly after the war. As a representative of the Chaldean Catholic Patriarchate, he experienced the war in its most violent form, living only a few hundred metres from Baghdad's military airport.

Anyone travelling through Baghdad at the beginning of 1992 will see only a little of the damage caused by the heavy bombardment of the city. Only a few residential areas were directly hit. But the tragedy of this war is that the infrastructure of the country was almost completely wiped out. The targets were telephone exchanges, electricity generating plants and water treatment stations. As a result, water supplies and sewage purification systems have collapsed. This is what the committed archbishop meant by his comment. It was practically impossible to lead a normal life after the war. For many people, the summer of 1991 brought a slow death. With tap water contaminated by sewage, drinking water being taken from the Tigris and food rotting in fridges with no electricity, the inhabitants of every part of the country suffered more or less the same fate.

Then help arrived from the U.N. organisations and the International Red Cross. The latter concentrated first of all on supplying purified drinking water until the installations were reasonably operational again. This was the only way of preventing a much-heralded disaster. Baghdad now appears, on the surface, to be almost intact. Fleeting visitors see only the external signs of a tragedy that will go on for many months yet. Before the total economic embargo, Iraq was booming. A strong middle class, many of them Christians, kept the economy going. An upper class, close to the regime, was earning a lot of money, but poverty was being kept within limits. This picture changed completely after the war. The middle class was hit hard: it was most affected by the embargo. The number of poor people rose to hundreds of thousands, while the few rich raked in more money through black market imports than they had ever done before.

Help arrives too late for many of them. A study carried out in late summer by a Harvard student (9,034 families) reported a 400 per cent increase in the infant mortality rate compared with 1990 (104.4 per thousand children under 5 years of age). Malnutrition is also the diagnosis most often made in provincial hospitals (71 per cent in Erbil, 66 per cent in the Kurdish region of Sulaymaniyah and 66 per cent in the mainly Christian area, Mossul). There is also a severe lack of medicine. In fact, medicine is given out free of charge as, in this kind of situation, only wealthy families can afford to have it directly imported from Jordan. Many hospitals are so overcrowded that they are forced to send their little patients back home after only a few days of treatment.

Psychological effects of bombardments on children. Again in summer, the second highest (water-related) diagnosis was chronic diarrhoea, which was more widespread in children's hospitals than respiratory tract diseases. The lack of suitable antibiotics had a fatal effect here, too. Little attention has been paid so far to the psychological effect of the bombardments on children. In the abovementioned Harvard study, a team of specialists examined these effects. They found that almost 70 per cent of all children questioned had lost hope of ever staying alive to grow up. They were afraid of dying before coming of age. This is obviously a direct result of psychological belligerency. Even after the liberation of Kuwait, allied units had flown through the sound barrier over Baghdad. These detonations, similar to a bombing raid, were only stopped after protests from a foreign church leader.

Anyone who knows anything about the pride of the Arabs will know that beggars are taboo in this region. A year ago, no beggar could be seen on the streets. Now one can hardly find a street corner without one. Children are particularly noticeable. They work as shoe-shine boys, cigarette sellers or vegetable and biscuit sellers. The crime rate is rising steeply. In spite of the extremely strong police presence, this situation will deteriorate. The outlook for the Iraqi people is as gloomy as ever. On the one hand, the very poor are struggling under the total economic embargo, while on the other hand the regime will not accept the conditions for oil sales laid down by the U.N. Security Council. Survival means being able to sell everything you own. Auctions, sometimes held on the Muslim sabbath, Friday, reveal the agonising situation. Selling an armchair may guarantee milk powder rations for a month. But what then? There is no black market for medicine, of course. Many relief organisations are active in Iraq. Large organisations are helping by operating over large areas, while smaller ones such as "SOS Children in Need" are concentrating on particular areas. These actions, known as "SOS Children," use the infrastructure of the Chaldean Catholic Church. Since the beginning of the year, they have been under the patronage of Archbishop Dely. Knowing that enough foodstuffs can be bought on the black market, direct help is given to large families using donations received. Thus large amounts of Nestlé baby milk powder can be obtained in the country itself and distributed free.

It is difficult to foresee any solution for the tragedy in Iraq. The fact that the poorest people, particularly mothers and children, are suffering most there, is in fact typical of what happens worldwide. It is a pity that this time it is happening in a country which was experiencing relative wealth beforehand.

The author is founder and president of the Switzerland-based association "SOS Children in Need" who has visited Iraq on several occasions. The article is reprinted from the Swiss magazine ICCB-Children Worldwide.

China political battle did not end in Tiananmen

By David Schlesinger
Reuter

PEKING — Three years after China's leaders sent army tanks to crush a pro-democracy movement in Peking's Tiananmen Square they are still fighting, but this time among themselves and behind closed doors.

Behind the high red walls of Zhongnanhai, the compound just down the road from Tiananmen Square where China's leaders live and work, the few old men who run China are locked in battle over the country's future.

This year there are no bodies in the streets, but the issue for Peking's elderly leaders remains as deadly serious as when the tanks moved against dissent on June 4, 1989.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Can the Communist Party stay in power in a world where communist regimes have toppled like dominoes?

The octogenarians who control the fate of 1.1 billion people face no immediate threat from their citizens — in the last three years they have combined harsh political repression with a strong dose of economic pragmatism.

The threat to their rule comes from the debate within the party over how far China should reform its economy and from the dramatic tensions between rich and poor, the haves and have-nots created by those very reforms.

After 1989 the government destroyed the pro-democracy movement: jailing thousands, throwing countless others out of jobs, forcing many underground or out of the country.

However, the party saved the economy, brought double-digit inflation under control, filled store shelves with goods and let entrepreneurs get on with the capitalist-style game of making money and enjoying the fruits of their success.

Yet many in the party fear the bold economic remedy to reform unwieldy central planning has been as bad as the disease.

These people, some very powerful, believe economic reform could result in the collapse of party rule and are trying to block reform efforts, Chinese sources said.

Vice Premier Tian Jiyun in a speech last month at the Communist Party school lashed out bitterly at these officials, derided as "leftists". In a sign of their power, the leftists stopped publicly for Mr. Tian's speech and limited circulation of a long document detailing his ideas, Chinese sources said.

Mr. Tian accused them of

opposing almost all forms of economic reform, including inviting foreign investment, giving factory managers more responsibility and allowing private enterprise.

He accused the leftists of paying lip service to the reforms while impeding them, said sources who have seen a videotape of his speech and read the document.

"They have an extremely fraudulent nature and are very harmful," the sources quoted Mr. Tian as saying.

"They deny all of the most basic and practical aspects of reform and opening," he said.

"The food they eat is the fruit of reform and opening, the luxuries they enjoy are the result of reform and opening, yet they curse at reform and opening. They long for the economics of scarcity of the 1950s and 1960s, they also long for the days when class struggle was the key link and everyone was attacking everyone else politically," Mr. Tian said, referring to some of modern China's darkest days.

No one expects China to go back to those days.

But the results of the political struggle will determine how effectively China deals with problems thrown up by reform.

A widening rift exists between those who have grown rich under the reforms and those who still eke out subsistence wages working for the state.

Vast differences between the booming south and coastal regions that have ridden an export boom to wealth and the stagnating north and west have become a major source of dissatisfaction.

The government must find answers to the fears of workers who for the first time in two generations of communism may face unemployment or a cut in pay as Peking moves to reform inefficient and loss-making state industries.

LETTERS

Something missing

To the Editor:

Delight and pleasure, surprise and wonder are my feelings on this my first visit to Amman and Jordan. The buildings are grand, so well-spaced, the roads are excellent, traffic flows well, my hotel is first class and everybody I meet is amicable, considerate and eager to please.

Yet, something is missing in this city. Or perhaps I have not yet found it in spite of persistent questioning. There is no theatre, no concert hall, no centre for social convergence.

I hope I may, without meaning offence, suggest that it would benefit all the people of Jordan, and visitors in your country, if such a centre were created.

I have in mind something of the scale of London's Barbican of Sydney's opera house: a concert hall, a full-sized theatre, several small theatre for special interest and amateur productions, conference rooms, a library, swimming pool, museum, art gallery, restaurants of varying grades and lounges for relaxation.

If may sound grand, even opulent and beyond the financial means of Jordan. But when I imagine the wealth that seems to be behind the many four and five star hotels, and the massive buildings of banks, I imagine too that there must be sufficient wealth for a cultural centre such as I suggest.

It would be a great investment, one that would say to the world: Jordan is among the cultural leaders of the world. Jordan is worth seeing. Visit Jordan; again and again.

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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Bush seeks new covert funds to oust Saddam — report

LOS ANGELES (R)—The U.S. administration has proposed almost tripling the \$15 million Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) budget for covert operations to help overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Los Angeles Times reported on Sunday.

The request calls for an increase in CIA spending to \$40 million for the campaign against President Saddam, who has frustrated the White House with his ability to withstand political and military punishment from last year's Operation Desert Storm, U.S. sources told the newspaper.

The new funding would be devoted to a programme that began in May 1991, when President George Bush signed a presidential finding after a U.S.-led invasion and rebellions by Shiite and Kurdish opponents failed to dislodge the Iraqi leader. A finding is a special order required under U.S. law to authorise covert operations.

The finding opened the way for U.S. covert action to destabilise President Saddam and encourage internal efforts to overthrow him, the sources were quoted as saying.

Senior U.S. analysts have told the Bush administration that President Saddam may be able to

stay in power indefinitely. According to the newspaper's sources, the CIA would use the funds primarily to conduct surveillance over Iraq to detect arms deployments, to assist Iraqi opposition groups and to expand a propaganda campaign of radio broadcasts and leaflets.

During the first year of the covert operation, U.S. satellite surveillance played a major role in tracking hidden arsenals of nuclear and chemical weapons, the sources said.

But they said access to human intelligence sources is still limited and as a result, the administration is less optimistic about the prospect of covert action boosting internal opposition.

The proposed new allocation has widespread support among congressional Republicans and Democrats, who have been informed of the plan, the sources said.

Iraq has been squeezed by a United Nations economic boycott since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which was later retaken by a U.S.-led coalition in Operation Desert Storm.

A presidential spokesman, Michael Busch, said the White House had no comment on the report.

Arafat reportedly in stable condition

(Continued from page 1)

blood clots, which were all successfully removed," he said.

The doctor said that when Mr. Arafat regained consciousness, his first request was for a glass of water.

According to PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo, Mr. Arafat had decided to postpone the operation until after his return from Iraq.

He left Amman by car for the Iraqi border at 9:00 a.m. (0600 GMT). "But while still in the Jordanian territory, Mr. Arafat was in deep pain caused by a severe headache and asked the driver to take him back to Amman," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

He was rushed to the hospital where the surgery began at noon (0900 GMT), Mr. Abed Rabbo added.

In a press release, Farouk Kadoumi, the head of the PLO's political department, thanked King Hussein for the medical services offered to Mr. Arafat.

"I also want to apprise our Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories that our leader is in excellent condition and he'll be back at work in a matter of few days," Mr. Kadoumi said.

Render adds: Dr. Qousous said Mr. Arafat, who has maintained a hectic schedule of consultations with Arab leaders on Middle East

peace talks, was expected to be completely recovered from the operation by the time he is released in three or four days.

The PLO leader was not under medication and would suffer no lasting effects from the blood clot, he added.

"His capacity, his brain and intellectual functions, everything, will be intact."

Dr. Qousous said Mr. Arafat would not be allowed visitors during his stay in hospital except for PLO officials and relatives.

Mr. Arafat looked to be in relatively good health after arriving in Amman on Saturday from Damascus although he wore a fur hat in the June heat and was uncharacteristically vehement in his comments.

Arriving at the airport he described Israel as the "Zionist, extremist, fanatic entity," an expression an official later described as "a slip."

A senior PLO official in Tunis said Mr. Arafat had been feeling unwell during visits to Arab states over the past few days.

Jordan said earlier it was postponing for several days a meeting of Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese foreign ministers and the PLO to discuss the peace talks. The meeting had been scheduled to begin on Wednesday, Jordan said "urgent engagements" by some foreign ministers had delayed the meeting.

Ashrawi stresses EC role in talks

(Continued from page 1)

several issues.

"There are many things that I have to ask including preparing the ground for Palestinian elections, getting a more active role for the EC... (and) upgrading relations with the Palestinians," she said.

Britain's Conservative govern-

ment is seen as taking a more pro-Palestinian line than the United States. British officials have met PLO representatives as part of a policy of listening to all sides in the conflict.

Washington cut official dialogue and severed all links with the PLO after it refused to condemn an abortive raid on an Israeli beach by a hardline Palestinian faction in 1990.

Palestinians endorse 'covenant of honour'

(Continued from page 1)

leadership of the uprising, has also backed the document, they said.

"We call on all to publicise this covenant... so it becomes a reference in disputes and to invoke against anyone deviating from the nationalist norms," the covenant said.

The document lists six acts which it said must be banned, foremost of which is to ban killing

or torturing of suspected informers. It recommended that violators be reprimanded and eventually boycotted by the community.

The statement also outlawed Palestinian infighting and banned confiscation of private property. Activists, seeking to enforce a ban on the sale of Israeli products in the occupied territories, used to confiscate goods and burn them publicly.



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The Zionist-Jewish attack on Catholic Church and the recognition of Israel by the Vatican

By Pascal Karmi

I have read an article in the Jerusalem Post dated April, 4, 1992, written by a certain Jewish writer called Michel Camiel. The article drips with venom and is full of invectives against the Catholic Church in general and the Vatican in particular.

He alleged that the Catholic Church had persecuted the Jews, that it did not help them or at least kept silent before and during World War II when they were being persecuted by the Nazis, that it is anti-Semitic and is against Zionism, that the Vatican's non-recognition of Israel stems from the harbouring of feelings of hatred against the Jews. He also alleges that the Christian Church's anti-Semitism is ingrained in the Gospels of Jesus Christ, especially those written by St. Matthew and St. John, who, both repeatedly mention the Jews in a derogatory context.

I should recall at the outset that this is not the first time (no will be the last time, I believe) that a Jewish writer attacks Catholicism in particular and Christianity in general, including the Gospels of Jesus Christ as written by the four apostles.

There is the striking example of the Jewish French writer Jules Isaac, who wrote two books "The Roots of Anti-Semitism" and "Jesus and Israel" in which

he endeavoured to discredit the crucifixion story, as related by the four evangelists, with the purpose of absolving the Jews of the crime of crucifixion. But the French writer, Count Léon des Pontins, in his book "Judaism and the Vatican" rejects Jules Isaac's attack on the Gospels' story as follows: "The Christian attitude to Judaism has always been based on the account of Jesus' passion as described by the four Evangelists and as interpreted by the Fathers of the Church, such as St. John Chrysostom, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, Pope Gregory the Great and many others. However, Jules Isaac attempted to challenge the historical value of the Gospels' account and to discredit the arguments advanced by the Fathers of the Church for the protection of Christianity from the destructive influence of Jews. In conclusion, Jules Isaac came up with a new story about Christ's passion for the purpose of showing that the Gospels' narrators are downright liars. He directed his onslaught in particular on St. Matthew whom he accused as the unerring hand which unleashed the poisoned arrow that can never be withdrawn."

The Christian Church is reply to this Zionist-Jewish diatribe against the Gospels is simply that they are the root and foundation of the Christian faith and doctrine, and no Christian church

worthy of that name can alter or deviate from them one iota, to the great chagrin of the Jews. Thus Christians cannot change the historical facts concerning the life and death of Jesus as recounted by the four apostles, three of whom were Jews themselves. The Gospels show clearly that it was the Jewish leaders of the time who instigated the Jewish people and insisted on the crucifixion of Christ, despite the attempts by the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate to release him as he had found him innocent and who washed his hands declaring: "I am innocent of the blood of this just man."

With regard to the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis before and during World War II, it must be pointed out that the Catholic Church people and other Christian religious leaders in Europe had helped, at the risk of their lives, thousands of Jews to escape or to hide. By contrast, it is an incontrovertible fact that some of the elite Jewish leaders in Hungary and elsewhere in Europe cooperated with the Nazis to save their skin and, as a result, had sacrificed thousands of Jews by sending them to the concentration camps. This is substantiated by the revelation of the Jewish writer Ben Hecht in his book titled "Perfidy" and by Eichmann's trial, which took place in Jerusalem in 1962.

And it is now reported, if not

proven beyond doubt, that even Yitzhak Shamir, the present prime minister of Israel, had cooperated with or approached the Nazis to enlist them for the support of the creation of Israel. Thus, before they can see the straw in other people's eyes they should remove the beam from their own eyes.

There is some talk now about the recognition of Israel by the Vatican. The writer of the Jerusalem Post article I have mentioned is impudent enough to suggest that if the Vatican wishes to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, the former must comply with two conditions: first the Church must pay compensation to the Jewish people in return for the vast real estate and other possessions which, as alleged, were seized by the Church. He further pretends that there is not a single European state that has not converted synagogues and Jewish schools into churches and monasteries.

As to the second condition, he alleges that the Vatican, the churches and monasteries own big libraries that contain valuable books and manuscripts which were stolen from the Jews. The writer adds that Israel, being the lawful inheritor of the stolen property, worth now billions of dollars, should be given back to it. In other words, the writer tries to blackmail the Church and the European states as the world

Jewry has blackmailed Germany for years obtaining billions of dollars.

The writer's presumptuousness goes so far as to suggest that the head of the Church should publicly apologise to the Jewish people for the alleged wrongs they had suffered at the hands of the Church. Such impudence does not surprise us as this is the characteristic of the Zionist-Jewish blackmail to force the hands of the Vatican to recognise Israel.

It is therefore incumbent upon the Arab and Muslim states to counteract the Jewish moves for the recognition of Israel in order to prevent even a quasi-recognition of Israel (by a visit for example to Israel) unless and until the Palestinian problem, including Jerusalem, has been justly resolved in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 224 and 338 and other pertinent United Nations resolutions.

The Vatican is quite aware of the fact that by Israel's occupation of the Holy Land, the killing and maltreatment of Palestinians, their expulsion from their homeland, the wanton destruction of their houses and the illegal seizure of their lands Israel is trying to totally empty the West Bank and Gaza Strip of its native inhabitants.

The Vatican is also aware that thousands of Christians and Muslims have immigrated to the four corners of the earth as a result of

Israel's racist acts, as succinctly described above.

The Vatican knows quite well that hundreds, if not thousands of churches and holy shrines have no congregations worshipping in them and they stand now as mere monuments or museums. Indeed the Archbishop of Canterbury has rightly observed during his recent visit a few months ago to Jerusalem and Bethlehem that all those holy places will become similar to the Disney Land in California. And it is hoped that Archbishop O'Connor of New York who also visited very recently the Holy Land will disavow the American bishop who sympathise with Israel from pressing the Vatican for the recognition of Israel after he had seen the miserable conditions of the Palestinians in the Holy Land under the atrocious occupation of Israel.

The Vatican, being aware of all the above-mentioned facts, it is inconceivable that it will recognise Israel. Christians and Muslims trust that the Vatican, being the bulwark of justice and fair dealing and the upholder of international law, will use its moral influence with the Western powers, especially the U.S., so as to bring real and just peace to the Holy Land so that Palestinians will attain their legitimate national rights, including that to a state of their own.

When time stood still and Gulag despair turned to hope

By James Flannery
Reuter

MAGADAN, Russia—A moment came when despair turned to hope, 39 years ago in the dead zones of Siberia.

"You can still see the prisoners' scribbled calendars which came to an abrupt halt the month dictator Josef Stalin died."

His death on March 5, 1953, sent a shockwave round the world and into the secret Gulag prison camps that were an instrument of his terror purges.

Time stood still in the prisons as an era that seemed everlasting and indestructible ended.

A sense of that time lingers in ruined camps in northeast Russia's Kolyma Mountain area below the Arctic circle.

Some of these remote places, now overgrown by grass and marked skeletons and piles of worn-out boots, appear to have been abandoned suddenly.

Survivors say there were even camps about which nothing is known because no prisoner ever returned from them.

To those who lived through

some of the notorious camps, the names are a litany of horror... Taskan, Mylga, Shturmovo, Burkhal, Elgen, Yagodnoye, Belichey, Myngakh, Gorykh, Bunyachyag, Oronub, Gulny, Khatyanakh, Susuman, Sinegorye and Dzheigala.

Elgen, which means "death" in a regional language, was one of the most forbidding camps, featured in the remarkable memoirs of Eugenia Ginzburg who survived 18 years' detention.

Much of Elgen is still intact. "Watch towers, barbed wire, ditches, mediaeval paling. This was a prison camp," wrote a Russian journalist describing a rare trip by helicopter to Elgen, where he visited a prison section known 40 years ago as Canyon-1.

"We entered the iron-barred barracks. Well preserved plank beds. There was an iron frame at the head of each bed, space for a card denoting the convict's name and number. The frames were empty..."

Writing in the newspaper Vostok Rossi, Svyatoslav Timchenko added: "Workers' boots and half-rotten quilted jackets

had been dragged along the floor. A peg was nailed to the wall. Oh my God, there was a convict's hat on it."

Scribbled on another building was the inscription: "The barracks was closed on September 14, 1954."

In Magadan, the area capital

called "contemporaries," published in Russia this year.

They say the camp system really began crumbling between 1956 and 1958 after Kremlin leader Nikita Khrushchev denounced Stalin. "The jailers, supervisors, commanders — they just disappeared without trace," they say.

The Gulag finally vanished early this year when Russia said the last 10 political prisoners had been freed. Forced labour camps still exist for criminals.

Russia rehabilitates the unjustly accused from that era, but only a handful of camp authorities have been prosecuted, a fact that angered Gulag survivor and writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn who pointed to post-war Germany's prosecution of Nazi criminals.

Health Minister Andrei Vorobyov, whose parents died in Stalin's Purges, told a Moscow audience of camp survivors and their families this month that the prison system had not changed from the repression of Tsarist or communist times and needed urgent reform in line with pro-democracy moves.

whose main street merges into the rugged Kolyma highway, gateway to the Gulag, survivors Asir Sandler and Miron Etis have collaborated on memoirs

"Watch towers, barbed wire, ditches, mediaeval paling. This was a prison camp," wrote a Russian journalist describing a rare trip by helicopter to Elgen, where he visited a prison section known 40 years ago as Canyon-1. "We entered the iron-barred barracks. Well preserved plank beds. There was an iron frame at the head of each bed, space for a card denoting the convict's name and number. The frames were empty...."

"There was someone's portrait represented by the contour on the wall. It was probably a portrait of the 'great belmsman', Stalin. There was also a homemade

calendar in a frame. For the year 1953, January, February and March were crossed out. There was nobody to cross out the other months after Stalin's death. It seemed that time had come to a halt in this dreadful place."

Sandler, a wiry Azerbaijani journalist, was born 1917 ("I am as old as the revolution") and arrested in 1941, accused of spying for Germany. He was to have been executed but was later sentenced, to hard labour for anti-Soviet propaganda.

He spent over a decade in camps, including the gold mines of Yagodnoye. "I went back once," he says. "All I could see now was the grass growing over it."

Asked how he managed in the camps, he says: "People can get used to anything, all I felt was a heavy-as-lead tiredness."

Etis, a 62-year-old physician, was arrested as a medical student and accused of conspiracy and murder. He was sentenced to death but reprieved. He worked for three years in gold mines in Kazakhstan and was released in 1956.

"You had a chance if you worked on the surface," he says. "Death was much more certain for the underground workers. Their bodies were just thrown down unused shafts, though others were buried."

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Financial Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 29.5.1992	Jordan Close Date: 1.6.1992
US Dollar	1.8265	1.8390
Deutsche Mark	1.6080	1.5975
Swiss Franc	1.4570	1.4473
French Franc	5.4010	5.3883
Japanese Yen	127.60	126.78
European Currency Unit	1.2785	1.2863

1992 For 1991: 1.0000
1991 For 1990: 1.0000

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
US Dollar	3.87	4.00	4.56	4.56
Deutsche Mark	10.00	10.00	9.97	9.75
Swiss Franc	9.69	9.68	9.68	9.56
French Franc	9.50	9.31	9.06	8.75
Japanese Yen	9.87	9.87	9.87	9.75
European Currency Unit	4.75	4.65	4.56	4.56

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1992 For 1991: 1.0000
1991 For 1990: 1.0000

Russia to increase money supply five times by August

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian government will flood the country with new roubles in the next two months to try to alleviate a critical shortage of cash caused by soaring prices, a senior official said Sunday.

Although likely to fuel inflation, the only way to soothe an "explosive situation" in the economy and among workers whose payrolls haven't been met, said Deputy Premier Yegor Gaidar.

Mr. Gaidar said the government plans in June to double the printing of the new 1,000-rouble notes and boost the production of 500-rouble bills. It intends to introduce a new 5,000-rouble note in July, and mass produce it in August.

"If there are no catastrophes, the situation with the money supply will start to improve (in August)," Mr. Gaidar said in an interview Sunday evening on Commonwealth Television.

Prices have risen on average 300 per cent since controls were lifted in January. The average monthly wage is about 1,000 roubles, and a dollar is equal to

about 118 roubles at the widely used unofficial exchange rate.

Mr. Gaidar said there would be 142 billion roubles in circulation in June, 3.5 times the number in May. By August it would be boosted by five to six times to 270-280 billion roubles, he said.

Among other things, the cash shortage has prevented the government from meeting its payroll to Siberian oil workers, who have threatened to go on strike against Russia's most important source of hard currency.

The workers say the government has been short several million roubles on their pay in the last few months. They also want a share of hard-currency oil earnings and higher wholesale prices for oil, among other demands.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin reshuffled two top energy officials Saturday and may request extra foreign credit to help the once-mighty oil and gas industry, news reports said.

Expressing alarm at falling production in Russia's most important industry, Mr. Yeltsin agreed during a cabinet meeting to accept some demands by disgruntled workers but refused to lift all

World Bank lends Iran \$134 million

NICOSIA (R) — The World Bank has approved two loans for Iran totalling \$134 million, the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Finance Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh as saying. He said a \$57 million loan for flood prevention and agricultural projects in the Sistan-Baluchistan province was ratified Thursday. The bank had also approved a \$77 million loan for a project to control Tehran's surface waters "despite the U.S. government's opposition," Mr. Nourbakhsh said without elaborating.

Iran's relations with the World Bank, dormant for years after the 1979 Islamic revolution, have improved in the past couple of years.

Last year the World Bank extended its first loan to Iran since 1974 — a \$250 million credit for rebuilding damage from a 1990 earthquake.

China plans big layoffs in coal industry

BEIJING (R) — China will lay off 80,000 coal miners this year as it tries to make its huge and dangerous coal industry more efficient, the China Daily has said.

The industry employs seven million workers, more than the total number of coal miners in the rest of the world, the newspaper said.

Official statistics released this year showed that almost 30 Chinese miners die each day in accidents in unsafe mines that are rarely inspected.

Mines get a premium pay for the danger they face. By the end of this year the average miner will earn about \$1,820 annually, about four times more than workers in light industry who make about \$455, the China Daily said.

The China National Coal Corporation told the newspaper it would try to provide retraining for jobs in the service or manufacturing sectors.

A push for economic reform has threatened layoffs in many of China's lumbering, inefficient and loss-making state industries, but officials have moved cautiously for fear of inciting worker unrest.

GCC makes 2000 new target year for united market

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Six Gulf Arab states have agreed on a new deadline for establishing a common market, setting the year 2000 as the target for a goal which has already eluded them for more than a decade.

The Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency quoted Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan as saying the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have until the end of 1999 to overcome obstacles preventing the unification of their markets.

Goals include common customs duties — which vary in each GCC state — and unification of currencies, Sheikh Rodhan said.

He spoke in Riyadh late Sunday after a meeting of trade and finance ministers of the GCC which groups Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

GCC members have been trying to standardise their markets since their economic and political alliance was set up 11 years ago. They have postponed previous target dates several times.

The GCC said last month it hoped to sign a free trade pact with the European Community, its main trading partner, during 1992 but EC officials say this cannot happen until its members unify their customs duties.

Belgrade announces oil-saving moves

BELGRADE (R) — Sanctions-hit Yugoslavia announced special measures Monday to conserve oil products in the face of a U.N. trade embargo.

Western diplomats said that if the measures were effective, Serbia-led Yugoslavia may be able to make current oil reserves last for two months or more.

Nikola Sainovic, Serbia's energy resources minister, said by conserving energy, the country could avert fuel shortages despite an oil embargo under the United Nations sanctions imposed Saturday.

"A programme of conservation of oil derivatives is being prepared," Mr. Sainovic told the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug but gave no details.

Mr. Sainovic said Yugoslavia's main oil refineries in Novi Sad and Pančevo were processing 10,000 tonnes daily.

"For the most part, this is enough to meet our needs," he said. "There will not be fuel shortages."

"With strict conservation they could last two months or more," one envoy said.

The diplomats said the government was likely to consider rationing petrol but appeared not to have drawn up a final plan for how to deal with sanctions.

Coin shortage hits Nigerian businesses

LAGOS (R) — A shortage of new coins in Nigeria is hitting business activity and pushing up prices in sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy, traders have said.

Bankers said the problem was partly caused by people melting coins to make jewellery, after the Central Bank of Nigeria scrapped small denomination notes.

Traders in Lagos said the shortage of new aluminium-based coins started biting after the old 50 kobo (\$0.03) and one naira (\$0.05) notes stopped being legal tender on May 3.

The News Agency of Nigeria said the scarcity had hit business activity in the normally bustling southeastern city of Enugu, where many traders and taxi and bus drivers had refused to work because of frequent squabbling with customers.

Meanwhile, Nigeria plans to sell 5,000 tonnes of grain to the public at subsidised prices to cushion food price rises, state radio has said.

Agriculture Minister Abubakar Hashidu said in the northern city of Bauchi the government would release the grain from its reserves, the radio added.

Last March the government announced a package of measures, including relaxation of duties on a wide range of imports, after a 43 per cent devaluation of the naira triggered major price hikes which raised tension in Africa's most populous nation.

At least two people were killed in commuter riots over increased public transport fares in Nigerian cities last month.

Vice-President Augustus Abacha told reporters in the inland capital Abuja prices of essential commodities would soon fall as a result of the measures.

Cuban nickel industry expands into world market

HAVANA (R) — Cuba has adjusted to the loss of former socialist market in eastern Europe by quadrupling nickel sales to developed capitalist countries and plans to double nickel production by the end of the decade, a senior industry official said.

"We're going to grow steadily," Walter Leo, president of the state nickel company, Cubaniquel, told Reuters.

Communist-ruled Cuba has more than half of the world's estimated known reserves of nickel. The Cuban industry, based in the north-eastern mining region of Moa, is the Caribbean island's second most important export sector after sugar.

Mr. Leo said in an interview Cuba's three existing nickel plants would be modernised and a fourth completed and brought into operation under a \$1.2 billion investment plan over the next decade.

The development plan, which furcuses cooperation with carefully-selected foreign partners, would increase the country's nickel production to around 80,000 tonnes by 1996 and to 100,000 tonnes by the end of the decade.

Mr. Leo said the Cuban nickel industry and reacted successfully to the loss of its traditional markets in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, which up to

1989 together absorbed more than 80 per cent of Cuba's nickel exports.

Total output for 1992 was forecast to reach nearly 50,000 tonnes, a record for the Cuban industry. Exports in 1992 would earn an estimated \$350 million.

One innovation this year would be the production of small quantities of high-purity metallic nickel and metallic cobalt, refined by a foreign partner for Cubaniquel to sell.

Mr. Leo did not name the partner but said Cuba hoped to produce 4,000 tonnes of high-value metallic cobalt a year by the end of the decade.

Cuba's nickel production for export in 1989 totalled 46,600 tonnes, falling to 42,000 and 34,000 tonnes in 1990 and 1991 as the industry absorbed the shock of the collapse of supplies of oil and industrial inputs from the former Socialist Bloc.

Despite this disruption, the sector had managed to replace its lost preferential markets by reversing the destination of its exports and increasing hard currency sales to the developed capitalist world.

In the last four years, without counting 1992, we've multiplied by four the quantities exported to capitalist countries," Mr. Leo said. This realignment of exports

would accelerate in 1992, he added.

The expansion into the world market was mainly directed towards traditional capitalist clients, such as west European countries and Canada. Canada bought 8,000 tonnes of Cuban nickel in 1991.

Mr. Leo said this export drive had been successful despite tight U.S. trade and financial restrictions against Cuba which particularly targeted Cuban nickel sales.

"We've come out winners in that battle, we've become specialists in the (U.S.) blockade, we have to thank the U.S. administrations for that," he added.

But the U.S. restrictions were still containing Cuba's nickel export potential, Mr. Leo said that Japan, for example, was not buying as much Cuban nickel as it could.

"There is more space for Cuban nickel and we're fighting to open it up," Mr. Leo said, without offering a detailed breakdown of imports by individual countries.

Cuba had supplied no nickel to either Russia or other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) so far in 1992. Mr. Leo attributed this partly to the soaring costs of their industries which hampered agreements on prices.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The strong yen and bonds pushed the market up in morning trade, but thin volume turned off buyers, leaving profit-taking and future-linked selling to hurt prices. The Nikkei closed down 34.64 points at 18,004.11.

SYDNEY — Trade was thin at the start of a traditionally quiet month to end the financial year. The All Ordinaries closed 3.9 points lower at 1,674.4.

HONG KONG — Heavy afternoon selling of selected blue chips following sharp gains pushed the Hang Seng Index down 24.15 points, or 0.40 pct, to close at 6,056.00.

SINGAPORE — Share prices ended lower as institutional demand slackened and investors took profits from recent gains. The Straits Times Index fell 14.17 points to 1,510.52.

LONDON — French share prices trimmed their losses at the finish but still closed a lacklustre session with widespread declines. The CAC-40 Index ended 15.89 points down at 2,017.40.

PARIS — The equity market ended the first day of the new account slightly weaker in a thin session marked by lack of business. The FTSE 100 index closed down 10.0 points at 2,697.6.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips halved their losses by late morning as investors returned after bonds pressured equities following strong national purchasing data for May. The Dow was about 13 lower at 3,373.

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Sporadic fighting in Bosnia as Yugoslavia sanctions take effect

BELGRADE (AP) — Sporadic fighting and artillery bombardments Monday shook parts of the embattled Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as United Nations sanctions against Yugoslavia started to take bite.

With speculation rampant in the Serbian press that the international community's next move would be military, the commander of the Yugoslav Air Force vowed his planes would repel any attack.

"We will fight to the last man," declared Maj. Gen. Bozidar Stefanovic in an interview with Belgrade's large-circulation Vечernje Novosti daily.

Sporadic small arms and cannon fire was reported in Sarajevo through much of the night. A ceasefire mediated by U.N. peacekeepers was to take effect at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT).

The truce appeared an attempt by Serb leaders in Bosnia to prove they are not responsible for the latest upsurge in fighting, despite the blame assigned by the U.N. Security Council in imposing sanctions Saturday.

It was unclear whether the latest ceasefire would be any more successful than many other previous truces that collapsed almost immediately.

At least 2,250 people have died in fighting in Bosnia since its Slavic Muslims and Croats, who account for nearly 60 per cent of the republic's 4.3 million people, voted for independence on Feb. 29.

The United Nations and most of the world blame Serbia and Montenegro, the only two states in the new Yugoslavia, for the

escalation of ethnic warfare in Bosnia.

The Serb-led Yugoslav army has aided Serb fighters who have seized some two-thirds of Bosnian territory since the independence vote, forcing more than 600,000 to flee their homes.

The U.N. Security Council's sweeping sanctions against Yugoslavia include a ban on all trade, an oil embargo and the cutting of air links.

The Yugoslav airlines, the national flag carrier, and Avio Genex, a charter airline, announced they were discontinuing all flights to Western Europe. Hundreds of passengers were stranded at Belgrade Airport.

Mile-long lines of cars formed in front of gas stations early Monday as motorists, fearing an oil squeeze, rushed to stock up. But there was no panic-buying in Belgrade's still well-stocked supermarkets and grocery stores, and there appeared to be no rush of customers. Most people appeared confident that the sanctions would change almost nothing.

Sidewalk cafes were packed on a beautiful sunny day. "I cannot believe that these sanctions will last long enough to make a difference," said Verica Milivojevic, a grocery store clerk.

"We already have stocks of oil, flour and other vital items to last several months, so we figure we will get through just fine," said Mileva Simic, a retired schoolteacher.

Although no military measures have been discussed specifically by the Security Council, the Bel-

grade press has been rife with speculation the United Nations would impose a naval blockade and to assume control of Yugoslavia's airspace.

Gen. Stefanovic said that the air force had succeeded in moving almost all of its estimated 450 combat aircraft and hundreds of helicopters from those republics that seceded from Yugoslavia, and would not hesitate to use them to counter any military intervention.

"The Americans and NATO may try to attack ... from their bases in Italy and 6th Fleet aircraft carriers," he warned.

But he said anti-aircraft missile systems were "concentrated around the capital and are fully operational — whoever dares to attack Belgrade will be 'welcomed' in a fitting manner."

Meanwhile, in addition to the sporadic shooting and shelling reported in Sarajevo, several donations were heard from different parts of the battered city. But Boro Kontic, a Radio Sarajevo editor reached by telephone from Zagreb, said fighting had subsided early Monday.

Serbian and Croatian forces also traded fire south of Sarajevo, and shells fell on Croatia's historic city of Dubrovnik, local defence officials said.

Sixteen large-calibre shells also exploded in the Serb-controlled southern Bosnian town of Trepinja. They were fired from Croatian positions around Dubrovnik, the Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said.

Street fighting also was reported from Gorazde, the last

remaining government stronghold in eastern Bosnia. The town is packed with 20,000 mainly Muslim refugees and is entirely surrounded by Serb irregulars who have occupied much of the region in the past month.

Two people were reported killed and four wounded in the bombardment of the northern Croatian city of Slavonki Brod by Serbian gunners firing from across the Sava River boundary with Bosnia.

Japan said Monday it would halt trade with Yugoslavia and stop movement of its assets in and out of Japan as part of U.N. Security Council sanctions against the rump state. "Japan is ready to take action in line with the U.N. decision," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. A formal announcement would be made within a few days.

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating Monday halted flights by the Yugoslav national airline and said his government will be "moving expeditiously" to implement other sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Mr. Keating welcomed a United Nations Security Council resolution imposing sanctions against the rump Yugoslav states of Serbia and Montenegro and said in a statement that Australia would honour them.

Neutral Switzerland is considering applying economic sanctions against Yugoslavia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. As a first step, all Swiss airports have already been closed to the Yugoslav airline since Sunday and Swissair is no longer flying to Belgrade.

Clinton set to clinch nomination

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Primary voting in California and five other states Tuesday will likely hand Democrat Bill Clinton the Democratic presidential nomination but polls show most U.S. voters have eyes only for Ross Perot.

As the 1992 primary season nears an end, the Texas independent candidate's expected independent campaign has eclipsed both Arkansas Governor Clinton and Republican President George Bush.

While Perot's name has yet to appear on a primary ballot, even the insurgent presidential candidates of the two major parties were marvelling at his success.

"What the country is saying is that it does not want a second Bush administration," Pat Buchanan, the president's right-wing rival, said on NBC's Meet the Press Sunday.

"It wants to overturn the establishment of both political parties in Washington D.C.," Mr. Buchanan said. "As of now, the election of '92 is shaping up as a referendum on Ross Perot."

At the same time Jerry Brown, Mr. Clinton's last Democratic rival, predicted his party would lose the Nov. 3 election if Mr. Clinton is the nominee.

"You've got a billionaire Texan, talking tough, and you've got President Bush, who's got the

White House," Mr. Brown said in San Diego. "And the Democratic Party will get squeezed between both of them if it lays out a mushy moderate position."

Campaigning in Los Angeles, Mr. Clinton ignored Mr. Bush and aimed his attacks at Mr. Bush as the all-but-certain Democratic nominee continued laying ground work for the general election.

Addressing a mostly Jewish audience at an outdoor festival, Mr. Clinton said Mr. Bush had squandered a chance for Middle East peace after the Gulf war and had damaged U.S. relations with Israel by putting unfair pressure on the Jewish state.

"We had an unprecedented opportunity to bring together Israel and her Arab neighbours in a peace process, an opportunity which has been badly squandered by the United States' failure to be fair in the deliberative process."

Mr. Clinton, who affirmed his commitment to Israel, accused the Bush administration of putting "unbelievable one-sided pressure" on the Israeli government.

In an earlier speech to the mostly black congregation of a Los Angeles church, Mr. Clinton said America's economic leadership had failed and that new blood was needed to rebuild.

In a troublesome sign for Mr. Clinton, the most recent surveys

of California Democratic voters show him in a dead heat with Mr. Brown in California, America's most populous state and a necessary ingredient in any winning recipe for victory.

Mr. Brown is well known in California as a former two-term governor.

Mr. Clinton is expected to win Tuesday's other primary votes in Ohio, New Jersey, Alabama, New Mexico and Montana easily.

Mr. Bush is favoured to sweep all six of Tuesday's primaries.

Meanwhile Time magazine said Sunday Mr. Clinton, who had an alcoholic stepfather, has suppressed memories of several traumatic childhood incidents.

The news magazine reports in its new issue that both Mr. Clinton and his mother, Virginia, show a remarkable ability to suppress the past, including the 1959 arrest of his stepfather for abusing Mr. Clinton's mother.

As a 15-year-old, Mr. Clinton described the incident in a sworn deposition at his mother's divorce proceedings, Time said. But the magazine said Mr. Clinton not only forgot that event but forgot that he ever gave the deposition.

Mr. Clinton's mother was quoted as saying: "Bill and I have always been able to do that. I know you people are amazed at this, but we would always put away anything unpleasant."

COLUMN

Dancing at Lughnasa wins Tony as best play

NEW YORK (R) — Dancing At Lughnasa, an Irish play with a hard name to pronounce, won top drama honours at the 1992 Tony Awards Sunday while Crazy For You, a new musical based on old George Gershwin songs, was named the year's best musical.

Crazy For You won four awards while Dancing At Lughnasa won three. But the night's biggest cheers went to a revival of Gypsy and Dolls, which was named best revival and its star, Faith Prince, was named best leading actress in a musical — a guarantee of Broadway stardom for the flame-haired newcomer.

Veteran Hollywood actress Glenn Close was named best actress in a straight play for her performance as the Chilean torture victim in Ariel Dorfman's international hit, Death And The Maiden. Judd Hirsch, star of the long-running television series Taxi, won his second Tony. He was named best actor in a play for his work in Conversations With My Father, which he called the "role of my life."

Gregory Hines was named best actor in a musical for his portrayal of tortured jazz legend Jelly Roll Morton in Jelly's Last Jam. Dancing at Lughnasa, a drama by Irish playwright Brian Friel about five maidens aunts in Ireland in the 1930s, also earned awards for Patrick Mason for best director and Brid Brennan for best featured actress.

Concert rocks for Chernobyl kids

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign and Russian musicians rocked central Moscow in a benefit concert for children suffering the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant accident. Some 10,000 people filed into the huge Mavzov Square adjacent to the Kremlin to hear the Blues Band of Britain and the New Animals from the United States. Rumours had swirled around Moscow for weeks that Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones and singer Joan Jett would appear, but they didn't. "We want to attract attention of all the world to the problems of healing and helping the children who suffered from the Chernobyl catastrophe, children who are not guilty of anything but who have been made to suffer," said the concert's coordinator, Sergei Kharchenko. Among the performers expected were South-side Johnny from the United States, Desert Train from Sweden, and Andreas Vollenweider from Switzerland.

Andrew, Fergie go own ways after weekend trip

BALMORAL, Scotland (R) — Britain's Prince Andrew and his wife the Duchess of York went their separate ways with no sign that a weekend on Queen Elizabeth's Scottish estate had brought any reconciliation for the estranged couple. There had been intense speculation in the British media that they might come to some understanding during their stay with their two young daughters in a cottage on the Balmoral estate. But Britain's Press Association news agency said the weekend was simply a family get-together for the sake of the couple's two children, Beatrice, aged three, and Eugenie, two. The agency said Prince Andrew and the duchess may have used their meeting to finalise some of their small print of the marriage breakdown settlement. The prince, the queen's second son, left Balmoral early Sunday for Northern Ireland, where he is due to carry out a series of private visits with army units.

New light bulb has 18-year life span

LOS ANGELES (R) — In the first breakthrough in electric lighting in over half a century, a California company has developed a light bulb that will last more than 18 years, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

"We think it is the most significant advance in high-efficient incandescent lighting that's happened," Pierre Villere, chairman of Intersource Technologies Inc. of Sunnyvale, California, told the newspaper. The makers of the device, known as the electronic light, or "E-Lamp," estimate it will last up to 20,000 hours — a life span of more than 18 years if the bulb is burned an average of three hours a day. That is 120 times longer than incandescent bulbs — the most widely used household lighting — and twice as long as fluorescent lights.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Seoul urges North to accept inspections

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik told North Korea Monday that progress towards reconciliation would stop unless Pyongyang accepted mutual inspection of nuclear sites. Seoul, Washington and Tokyo fear that the North, isolated and economically crippled since the collapse of communism in Europe, is on the brink of producing a nuclear bomb. Mr. Chung said in a message to his Northern counterpart Yon Hyong-Muk that it was unfortunate that inter-Korean nuclear talks had become deadlocked. "We should bear in mind that without South-North mutual inspections, there would be no meaningful progress in the overall South-North relations," he said. "Your side should now come to the table of nuclear negotiations with a sincere and reasonable attitude." Mr. Chung sent the message after a meeting with South Korean Unification Minister Choi Ho-Joong, Foreign Minister Lee Sang-Ock, Defence Minister Choi Sae-Chang and a senior aide to President Roh Tae-Woo, a government spokesman said.

Heavy fighting rages in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan planes and artillery pounded Tamil Tiger rebel positions Monday as the army fought to take control of a major town used to funnel supplies to guerrilla camps, the military said. Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga said the nine-year-old civil war would end within two months. However, army officers and analysts said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels fighting for an independent state in the north and east were far from vanquished. Mr. Wijetunga said the government had a secret plan to end the war, the independent island newspaper reported Monday. Speaking to reporters in the central town of Meddumbura, the prime minister would not say if his optimism was prompted by a recent wave of military successes or whether the government would initiate peace talks with the Tigers. Military officers said the army was capable of launching an all-out offensive on rebel-held Jaffna peninsula, but it would not be a decisive battle since the rebels could melt away into the jungles.

Mandela warns whites over violence

PHOLA PARK (R) — Nelson Mandela has warned white South Africans they could become targets of angry blacks and renewed his threats of mass demonstrations to speed the process of change. The African National Congress president said the ANC would discourage attacks on whites but may be powerless to stop them. As he issued the warning during a visit to Phola Park Squatter Camp — a stronghold of ANC radicals — crowds of his supporters stoned police armoured vehicles less than 100 metres away. Out of sight of the Mandela entourage, a camp resident fired several shots from an AK-47 rifle. Police, who have encircled the camp with barbed wire to combat what they call its unacceptable level of violence, said the shots were aimed at them but no one was hit.

Japan foreign minister may need surgery

TOKYO (R) — Ailing Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe is suffering from a gallstone and a bile duct infection and may require surgery, a Japanese news agency report said Monday. The Kyodo report quoted the minister's elder son Yoshimi. Mr. Watanabe, 68, was taken to hospital Sunday with acute stomach pains. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa temporarily took over his duties. A Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed earlier that the minister was conscious and his life was not in danger. Mr. Miyazawa's first task was to substitute for Watanabe in the diet (parliament), where a crucial foreign policy debate began Monday. Mr. Watanabe had helped draft controversial legislation currently before the upper house, aimed at permitting Japanese troops to take part in U.N. peace-keeping operations.

Former aide of Chancellor Kohl dies

BONN (R) — Lutz Stavenhagen, a former top aide of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, has died of pneumonia at the age of 52, his parliamentary office said Monday. A spokesman said Mr. Stavenhagen, a member of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats, died in hospital on Sunday night. Mr. Stavenhagen quit on Dec. 3 as Mr. Kohl's top aide overseeing Germany's spy services and European policies after being entangled in scandals over Bonn's help for a former East German official and secret arms exports to Israel. He resigned as minister of state in the chancellery, a job he had held since 1987.

Muslim party supports Suharto

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's Muslim-based opposition party says it wants President Suharto, in power since 1965, to stay in the job for another five years. The Kompas daily Monday quoted Matori Abdul Jalil, secretary-general of the United Development Party (PPP), as saying in South Sumatra at the weekend that his party would not discuss any presidential candidate but Mr. Suharto.



Boris Yeltsin



F.W. De Klerk

De Klerk meets Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — F.W. De Klerk met Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin Monday on a visit that marks a diplomatic breakthrough for the South African president and raises hopes of economic help for the Russian leader.

Mr. De Klerk, facing growing black township violence at home, walked up the red-carpeted staircase of the Grand Kremlin Palace past a huge portrait of Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin to be received with a warm handshake by Mr. Yeltsin.

"An new era in relations between Russia and South Africa has already begun," Mr. De Klerk said on arrival in Moscow. South African flags flew along main boulevards leading to the Kremlin — a sight unthinkable only a few years ago when the Soviet Union was channelling huge resources to Marxist rebel groups on the African continent.

For decades South Africa was attacked in Soviet newspapers as a "racist tool of Western imperialism," its leaders parodied in cartoons brandishing bullwhips as they stood over prostrate black people.

The Moscow visit, symbolically ending a 35-year diplomatic breach, has infuriated communists in South Africa.

Mr. Yeltsin, they argue, should receive African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela before the head of what remains a white minority government despite Mr. De Klerk's reforms.

At the weekend, Izvestia newspaper said it had uncovered documents showing that the South African Communist Party had been closely controlled by Moscow.

One 1930s document from the archives of the old Communist International ordered the party to prepare to seize power.

For Mr. De Klerk, this week's tour, also taking in Japan and Singapore, is another step towards international acceptance.

South Africa and the Soviet Union shared close economic interests even during the years when they held no formal contacts. Informal and secret business relations survived despite Moscow's public condemnations of Pretoria.

The two countries dominate world gold and diamond production. Russia badly needs help in extracting ore to help shore up its shattered economy and finance radical market reforms.

Both countries face enormous social upheaval, Russia in casting off the centralised Communist system and South Africa in dismantling the apartheid system of racial segregation.

Russia's industrial heartland remains calm despite steep price increases early this year, the prospect of tougher measures in the months to come.

But Mr. Yeltsin faces serious problems extricating Russian troops from trouble spots in former Soviet southern republics.

Mr. De Klerk, for his part, faces opposition from white conservatives to his moves towards black participation in government. But he is also under fire from the ANC.

Emergency talks on Karabakh begin

ROME (AP) — Representatives of 11 countries met Monday in an emergency session to try to launch a peace process in Nagorno-Karabakh, site of the worst fighting to hit the former republics of the Soviet Union.

The Rome meeting marked the biggest step taken yet in the conflict by the 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Previous mediation attempts by Russia and Iran have not stopped the bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh, a pocket of land in Muslim Azerbaijan mostly populated by ethnic Armenians.

The participants at Monday's meeting may consider sending CSCE observers to Nagorno-Karabakh, said Alessandro Di Franco, an Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman.

"Everything is up for discussion," he said. The meeting was expected to last several days.

The emergency session was called after Armenian "self-defence" forces took over Nagorno-Karabakh following four years of fighting. Fighting also spread to Nakhichevan, a pocket of about 250,000 Azerbaijanis surrounded by Armenia, Turkey and Iran.

The flare-up in violence has upset Turkey. Some politicians there have called for sending troops to aid the Azerbaijanis, who are linked to Turks by language and Muslim faith.

The 11 countries, members of the CSCE conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, had originally been scheduled to meet at a peace conference in the Belarussian capital of Minsk in late June.

The emergency session was organised by Mario Raffaelli, a former Italian Foreign Undersecretary who heads the Nagorno-Karabakh conference. He has recently been mediating between the warring sides in Mozambique.

Aside from Italy, the members of the Nagorno-Karabakh group are the United States, Czechoslovakia, Russia, France, Germany, Sweden, Turkey, Belarus, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives from Nagorno-Karabakh were also invited to the meeting as observers.

Former world leaders urge war on drugs, arms and population growth

QUERETARO, Mexico (R) — Former world leaders ended a four-day conference in this colonial Mexican city calling for an all-out battle on drug abuse, military spending and population growth if mankind is to survive.

"There are already one billion people living under the line of absolute poverty," a summary of the former leaders' deliberations said. "There will be many more if the population of the world continues growing at the present pace."

The 20 former heads of state and government, meeting under the aegis of the 10-year-old Interaction Council, said the world population would double to 11 billion people by the year 2032 at current growth rates.

"The very question of survival will arise," the council said. Among former leaders taking part were Oscar Arias, former president of Costa Rica, Robert McNamara former U.S. defence secretary and World Bank chief, ex-Presidents Gerald Ford of the United States, Miguel De La

Madrid of Mexico and Jose Sarney of Brazil, former Portuguese Prime Minister Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo and General Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria.

Points adopted by the former leaders in their final declaration included a call for government to extend nuclear non-proliferation for another 25 years when the current international treaty comes up for review in 1995; and for the United Nations Security Council to step up its role in world conflict-management and peacekeeping.

The Security Council should have access to a "stand-by international military or police force," the council said.

The Interaction Council, chaired by former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, defines itself as a "disinterested non-actor in the complex field of international politics and relations." It studies world political and economic problems and seeks to develop practical proposals for solving them.

The former leaders said the world will be on security duty. Armoured cars guard key intersections and heavily armed troops line the roads.

Rio, a city of stunning beauty combined with abject poverty, has had a facelift with a four-lane highway to speed visiting officials through poor suburbs near the airport.

Brazil's two national pastimes, carnival and football, have not been forgotten.

Children from a top samba school, a frequent champion in Rio's annual carnival, will parade through the parallel meeting to encourage the teaching of environmental awareness.

Brazil's football idol, Pele, named a special Earth Summit ambassador, is also scheduled to kick off a football match Monday between a Kenyan and a Brazilian team made up of street children to underline the U.N.'s commitment to development.

Some 30,000 troops and police

would take away the rights and patents of U.S. companies that market biological inventions.

Britain's Environment Minister Michael Howard said Sunday his government was concerned that measures proposed in the pact to protect species were weak and details of its cost were unclear.

The row over the biodiversity treaty follows Washington's refusal to sign the other main treaty to be presented to the Earth Summit, on global warming, until goals and timetables for cutting emission of greenhouse gases were removed.

Environmentalists say the watered-down treaty which world leaders will now sign is meaningless because it lacks targets.

Further hard talking lies ahead in the two-week summit, especially over how much the richer, industrialised nations are prepared to pay to help the Third

World.

But organisers, including Earth Summit Secretary General Maurice Strong, say it will succeed despite the sceptics.

The fact that about 100 heads of state are due to attend the meeting shows a new commitment by governments to protecting the planet, they argue.

Over 10,000 people are due to take part in the summit, with another 11,000 participating in the parallel meeting of development and environmental groups called the Global Forum.

The environmentalists have chosen a downtown Rio park as their exhibition site. But heads of state will meet in a vast conference complex 30 kilometres out of the city.

At both sites, workmen were hammering, painting and joining wires in a last-minute rush before the opening ceremonies.

Some 30,000 troops and police

Troops line Rio streets for countdown to Earth Summit

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — With some top industrial states already objecting to key environmental pacts, officials gathered in Rio De Janeiro Monday for this week's Earth Summit.

Britain joined the United States in expressing reservations about a cornerstone summit treaty designed to protect plant and animal species.

Washington had dismayed ecologists and some politicians by saying it will not sign the document. But President George Bush was expected to try to deflect criticism Monday by announcing more U.S. help to preserve the world's forests.

A senior aide said on a U.S. television programme Sunday that Mr. Bush would announce a new thrust to develop sound forest management policies involving more than \$100 million in annual contributions.

The Earth Summit, officially

called the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), opens formally Wednesday, and officials from about 160 countries taking part have already begun informal talks.

Non-governmental environmentalist and development groups plan to upstage heads of state at the summit by opening their own conference 24 hours earlier.

A senior official of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Sunday described the "biodiversity" treaty which the United States has refused to sign as a symbol of Western nations' commitment to safeguard the Third World's resources.

"This action by the United States is a singularly inauspicious start to the Earth Summit," Gordon Shephard, WWF campaigns and treaties director, said.

Washington says the treaty

would take away the rights and patents of U.S. companies that market biological inventions.

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